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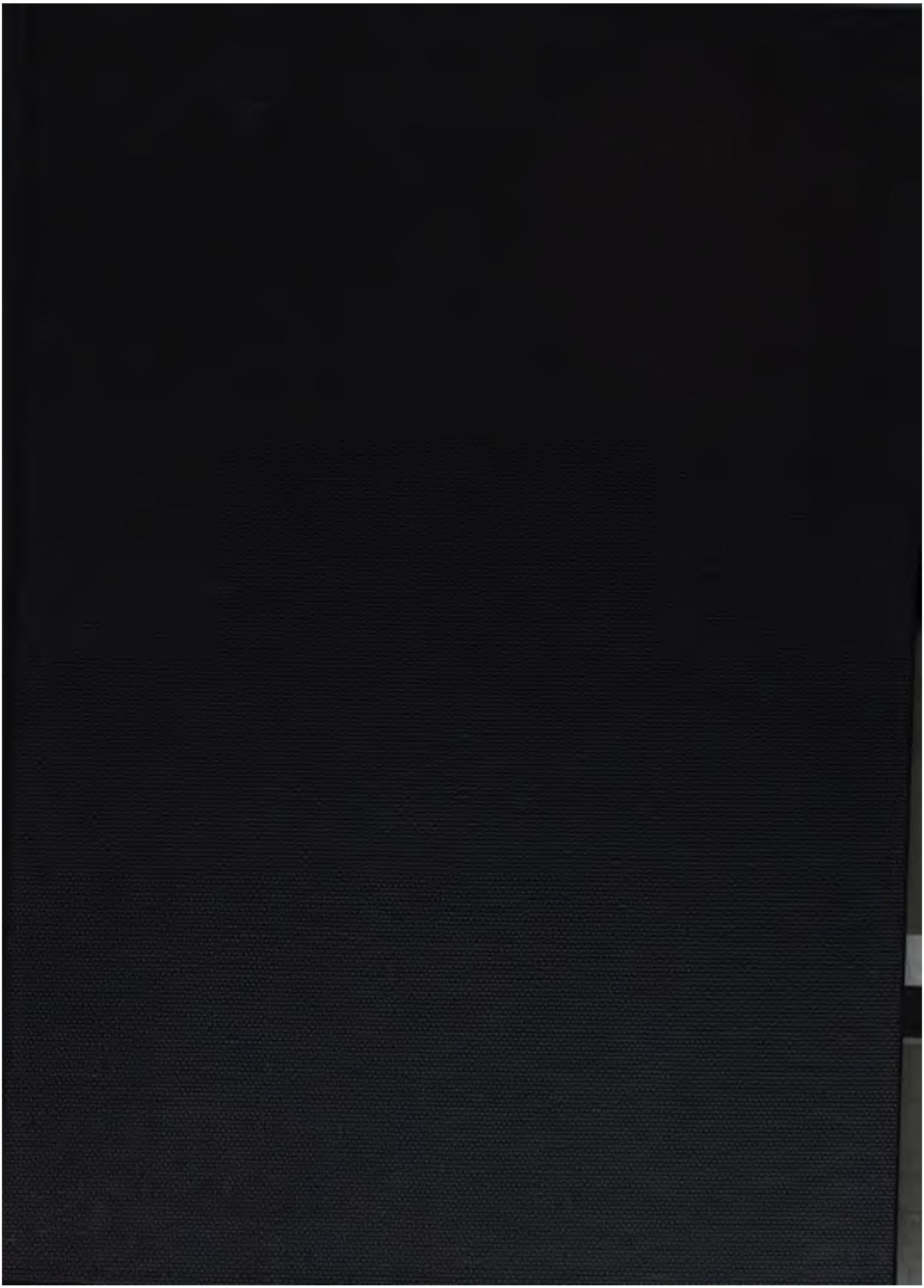
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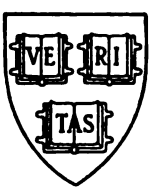
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Harvard College Library



FROM THE

BRIGHT LEGACY

One half the income from this Legacy, which was received in 1880 under the will of

JONATHAN BROWN BRIGHT

of Waltham, Massachusetts, is to be expended for books for the College Library. The other half of the income is devoted to scholarships in Harvard University for the benefit of descendants of

HENRY BRIGHT, JR.,

who died at Watertown, Massachusetts, in 1686. In the absence of such descendants, other persons are eligible to the scholarships. The will requires that this announcement shall be made in every book added to the Library under its provisions.



Harvard College Library.

FROM THE

BRIGHT LEGACY.

Descendants of Henry Bright, jr., who died at Watertown, Mass., in 1686, are entitled to hold scholarships in Harvard College, established in 1880 under the will of

JONATHAN BROWN BRIGHT

of Waltham, Mass., with one half the income of this Legacy. Such descendants failing, other persons are eligible to the scholarships. The will requires that this announcement shall be made in every book added to the Library under its provisions.

Received 1 Apr. 1895.

THE

HISTORY OF FLORENCE,

MASSACHUSETTS.

INCLUDING A COMPLETE ACCOUNT

OF THE

NORTHAMPTON ASSOCIATION OF EDUCATION AND INDUSTRY.

ILLUSTRATED.

EDITED BY

CHARLES A. SHEFFELD.

FLORENCE, MASS.:
PUBLISHED BY THE EDITOR.
1895.

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COPYRIGHT, 1894,
BY CHARLES A. SHEFFELD.

PRESS OF
SPRINGFIELD PRINTING AND BINDING COMPANY,
SPRINGFIELD, MASS.

TO MY GRANDFATHER,

Samuel Lapham Hill,

WHOSE KINDNESS AND BENEVOLENCE, WHOSE MORAL COURAGE,
REMARKABLE SAGACITY, AND TIRELESS ENERGY WILL
EVER BE GRATEFULLY REMEMBERED BY THE
CITIZENS OF FLORENCE,

I DEDICATE THIS BOOK.

PREFACE.

MANY events have occurred in Florence that have rendered it a village of especial interest and have given it distinction, and this work is offered to the public in the hope that not only its present citizens, but those who will make Florence their home, in years to come, may find it both interesting and valuable.

Three years ago, upon the suggestion of a friend, a book illustrating the picturesque attractions of the village was conceived, and a beginning made. As no one could be found to contribute an adequate historical sketch, the writer reluctantly assumed the task.

A little research revealed a mine of material as yet undisturbed by the historian's pickaxe, which made it apparent that something more comprehensive than a mere sketch was needed, and the result is the history that forms Part I. However, the original idea of giving variety to the text by having many contribute has not been abandoned, but instead of the six articles, at first projected, the number has been increased to thirty-seven.

We take pleasure in acknowledging our great indebtedness to the researches of Sylvester Judd, Esq., and to the files of the *Gazette*, which have yielded valuable material. Other sources of information have been the town and county records, the manuscript documents of the old "Community," and the memories of aged persons. We are under special obligations to our contributors, whose assistance has added much to the value of the work.

The engravings were made by the Springfield Photo-Engraving Company and the Boston Engraving Company from pen and ink sketches, of which the greater number were the work of Miss Susanne Lathrop, and of which four were contributed by Miss Helen Louise Davis, and from photographs by Clifton Johnson, Ferdinand Schadee, W. A. Sheldon, and the Editor. The landscapes on pages 70 and 91 were photographed by Miss Mabel Hinckley, who manifested as an

amateur photographer the enthusiasm and devotion that were distinguishing traits of her character. To her the Editor owes his interest in the camera, an interest that finally led to the inception of this book.

To the custodians of the records in public offices and to their clerks; to the librarians at the Center and Florence; to James R. Trumbull, for valuable assistance with the Judd manuscripts; to E. C. and E. E. Davis, for instruments loaned to take altitudes; to The Price & Lee Co., for permission to use the map of Florence; to Charles F. Warner, for permission to use the biographical sketch of C. C. Burleigh, first published in the *Hampshire County Journal;* to Miss Ella C. Elder and Miss Ellen E. Osgood, for helpful and painstaking criticisms upon the Editor's manuscript; to Arthur G. Hill, for unwearied co-operation in many directions, as well as to the multitude of other friends, at home and abroad, whose kindness has been unfailing,—the Editor hereby tenders grateful thanks.

FLORENCE, MASS., December 22, 1894.

CONTENTS

PART I.

CHAPTER I.

TOPOGRAPHICAL.

PAGE.

Natural Features of the Territory—Description of Ancient Localities, and Places of Special Interest, ... 11

CHAPTER II.

INTRODUCTORY.

How Northampton was Settled—The Nonotuck Indians—The Deed of Northampton—Condition of the Country as the Settlers Found it—The Division of the Lands at Nonotuck, ... 18

CHAPTER III.

FROM 1654 TO FIRST SETTLEMENT.

The First Visit of the English to Florence Territory, and the First Owners of Land there—The First Enterprise in Florence—The Sawmill of Lyman Brothers, Wright & Parsons—The One Acre Grant to Parsons, and its Contribution to the Early History of the Place—The Hulberts, 22

CHAPTER IV.

FIRST SETTLEMENT.

The French and Indian Wars Hindered the Settlement of Outlying Districts—The Settlement Begun—The First House Built—Daniel Warner the Second Settler—Story of the Phelps House—Gaius Burt Comes in 1798—Josiah White and His Oil Mill—First House in the Center of the Village, 1809, ... 29

CHAPTER V.

SETTLEMENT CONTINUED.

PAGE.

The Tavern of Solomon Warner—Captain Julius Phelps Comes in 1815—Enoch Jewett, 1816—William Warner, 1817—The Seth Warner House—Colonel Thomas Pomeroy, 1820—The Dwight Farm—The Oliver Warner Tavern in the Twenties, ... 37

CHAPTER VI.

FROM 1831 TO 1835.

The "Traveler's Home"—The Tavern Stand; and an Evening Scene—Early Roads and Bridges—The Later History of the Saw, Grist and Oil Mills, 45

CHAPTER VII.

MULBERRY FEVER AND SILK ENTERPRISE.

Early Biography of Samuel Whitmarsh—The Northampton Silk Company—Later Enterprises of Mr. Whitmarsh—David Lee and Lydia Maria Child—Josiah Gilbert Holland, ... 55

CHAPTER VIII.

NORTHAMPTON ASSOCIATION OF EDUCATION AND INDUSTRY.

The Spirit of the Times—The Transcendental Movement—Kindred Associations, Brook Farm and Hopedale—The Projectors of the Northampton Association—Why Florence was Selected as the Site of the New Venture—The Leaders Buy the Silk Company's Property—The Preliminary Circular—Organization—Constitution and By-Laws—Items from the Secretary's Book, ... 65

CHAPTER IX.

NORTHAMPTON ASSOCIATION.—Continued.

The Years 1843, 1844, 1845, 1846—Causes of the Dissolution—Membership List—Notes, ... 87

CHAPTER X.

ABRIDGED ANNALS.

How Florence Took its Name—Population—First Store—Post Office Established—Casualties—Cemeteries, ... 107

PART II.

OLD COMMUNITY TIMES.

PAGE.

Reminiscences, ... 115
By Frances P. Judd.

When I was a Boy, ... 118
By George R. Stetson.

When I was a Girl, ... 123
By a Community Maiden.

A Young Man in the Community, ... 126
By Giles B. Stebbins.

What I Found at the Northampton Association, ... 129
By Frederick Douglass.

The Hutchinsons' Visit, ... 132
By John W. Hutchinson.

RELIGIOUS HISTORY.

The Congregational Church, ... 137
Historical Sketch. By Rev. E. G. Cobb.
Quarter-Centennial—1866-1891. By Frank N. Look.

Methodism in Florence, ... 142
By Mary E. Gould.

The Church of the Annunciation, ... 145
By Rev. P. H. Gallen.

The Free Congregational Society, ... 146
By Henry B. Haven.

EDUCATIONAL HISTORY.

The Florence Public Schools, ... 151
By William D. Miller.

The Kindergarten, ... 156
Manual Training, ... 159
By Rev. Frederic A. Hinckley.

The Florence Lyceum, ... 161
By Judge Daniel W. Bond.

HISTORIC REMINISCENCES.

PAGE.

Florence, ... 165
By Mrs. Helen T. Clark.

The "Underground Railway," 165
By Joseph Marsh.

The Florence Dramatic Club, ... 168
By Arthur G. Hill.

The Sewing Machine Band, ... 171
By Edward Birge.

The Fire Department, ... 176
By Clayton E. Davis.

The Eagle Base Ball Club, ... 179
By One of the Players.

My Early Recollections. 186
By John B. O'Donnell.

The Munde Water Cure, ... 190
By Paul F. Munde, M. D.

Florence in the Mill River Flood, ... 193
By Clayton E. Davis.

Florence and the War, ... 197
By Joseph B. Whitehouse.

What Florence Needs, ... 201
By William H. Riley.

The Village Improvement Society, ... 202
By W. L. Wilcox.

BIOGRAPHIES.

Samuel Lapham Hill, ... 205
Preface. By Seth Hunt.
Biographical Sketch. By Arthur G. Hill.

Charles C. Burleigh, ... 211
By Seth Hunt.

Daniel Greene Littlefield, ... 214
By the Editor.

Alfred Theodore Lilly, ... 216
From the "Memorial."

Alfred P. Critchlow, ... 219
By George P. Warner.

PAGE.

Elisha Livermore Hammond, ... 221
By Harriet B. Gardner.

Mary White Bond, ... 224
By Martha Bryant Cary.

George A. Burr, ... 227
By Frank N. Look.

Henry Herrick Bond, ... 230
By Elizabeth Powell Bond.

John Lord Otis, ... 233
By the Editor.

Industrial Interests, ... 237



NATURAL FEATURES OF THE TERRITORY.—DESCRIPTION OF ANCIENT LOCALITIES, AND PLACES OF SPECIAL INTEREST.

A BRIEF account of the topography of Florence is necessary to familiarize the reader with the ancient names of certain portions of the territory, and to save the continual use of foot notes. Both the old and the modern names are given, and the aim has been to afford a thorough understanding to all interested.

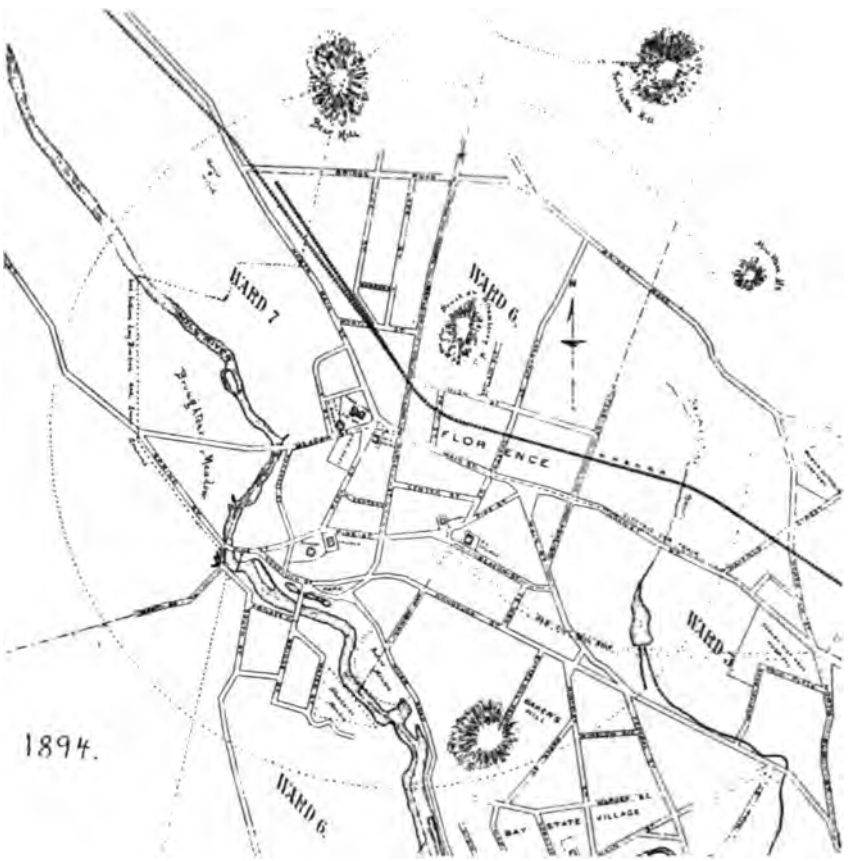
BOUNDS.—Florence is not incorporated, being simply a part of the city of Northampton, and distinct division lines between the village and adjacent places have never been drawn. The limits of Florence are as vague as some of the original landmarks in the ancient deeds. Individuals have ventured opinions as to how far the village extended, but no two have agreed on just the same boundaries. After consulting many citizens, the following lines have been drawn :—

The natural geographical center of the village is near the junction of Main and Maple streets. From this point as a center, with a radius of a little more than three fourths of a mile, or, to be exact, two hundred and fifty-eight rods, describe a circle. The 1894 map plainly shows this circle. If this boundary was made to include more territory to the north and west it would represent the average opinion of those consulted.

Florence is beautifully situated two and one half miles west of Northampton center, and bounded as above embraces parts of Wards five and seven, and the whole of Ward six of the city, and the circle with a diameter of one mile and three fifths incloses an area of about thirteen hundred acres.

ELEVATIONS.—The principal part of Florence is a plateau considerably above the level of Northampton, but the village includes a few elevations worthy of distinctive names.

Bear Hill is near the northwest boundary of Florence, and north of the John F. Warner homestead. It might be called a continuation of the elevation extending from Haydenville, through the northeast portion of Leeds. From the junction of Bridge road and North Main street, a gradual rise northward for thirty rods brings one to the southern sum-



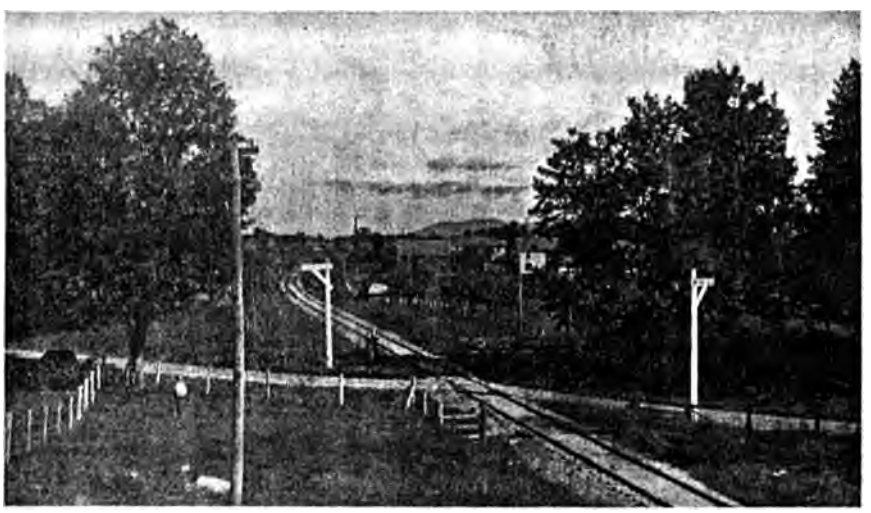
MAP OF FLORENCE.—1894.

mit, but the highest point is forty rods to the north. This has an elevation of about two hundred feet from the level of the plain below. Bear Hill is the largest and highest hill in Florence. When the Warners came here it was said that they had "moved to Bear Hill." The name is of ancient origin, having been used as early as 1754.

Baker's Hill is next in size to Bear Hill. Strictly speaking it is not wholly within the village limits, the southeastern declivity being part of Bay State. It rises about one hundred feet above the general level of

the meadows to the west, and takes its name from Edward Baker. (See "Baker's Meadow.") The road running northeast and southwest over its summit was for a long time the only traveled way from Florence to Bay State. Many of the older residents remember climbing the hill in going from village to village.

Brush Hill and *Strawberry Hill* are names applied to the same elevation, the former being the ancient and the latter the modern appellation. The summit is eighty rods northeast of the steam railroad station. In olden times there were numerous "Brush" Hills in the western part of the township of Northampton. This "Brush" Hill is found in deeds bearing the date of the opening years of this century, and for a long time the hill was known by this name.



FROM BEAR HILL—DOWN THE RAILROAD TRACK.

STREAMS.—Mill River is the only stream of any size within the limits of Florence. It enters the village at the northwest and flows southeasterly. One branch of the river rises in the hills of Goshen, and the other in the southwestern corner of Conway. These branches uniting, the river follows a southeasterly course and empties into the Connecticut River at the "ox-bow." It is noted for its many water privileges, and was made memorable by the great flood that swept down its channel in 1874, entailing great loss of life and property.

Broughton's Brook: The northeast corner of Florence, east of Holyoke street, is drained by a small brook, which was known in olden times as Broughton's Brook. John Broughton, formerly of Springfield, was

one of the first settlers at Northampton in 1654. The brook issues from the woods east of Chestnut street, and flows southerly through the meadows, entering Mill river at Bay State. When electricity came into use as the motive power on the street railway, a dam was built across this stream near Locust street. At one time it must have been quite a stream, but for several years the amount of water in the brook has been gradually decreasing.

PONDS.—*Warner's Pond* is the modern appellation of the small body of water lying between Locust and South Main streets. Soon after 1825 (before 1830) Enoch Jewett built the dam across Broughton's Brook, and raised this pond. The pond takes its name from Joseph Warner, silk manufacturer, for a long time proprietor of the mills now commonly called Leonard's Silk Mills, situated several rods south of the pond. Before Mr. Warner owned the mill the pond was sometimes called Holland's Pond —Harvey, son of Harrison, and brother of Dr. Josiah Gilbert Holland, at one time having had an interest in these mills.



BAKER'S HILL.—LOOKING TOWARD MOUNTAINS.

Round Pond: In many early deeds we have found a reference to Round Pond. This name seems to have been applied to the pond, or more truly speaking to the hole, that is now called Frog Pond. It lies just north of Warren street. In olden times the water in this locality was more abundant than now, and William Strong, born 1820, says that when he was a boy and living here (1830–40), the pond covered considerable ground, and that quantities of muck were dug from it each season.

MEADOWS.—*Broughton's Meadow:* The first record of land granted to the original settlers of Northampton, in the territory now embraced by Florence, was a grant of five acres in the meadows in the western part of the village, now known as Ross's Meadow. Broughton's Meadow was used to denote this locality nearly two hundred years, from 1657 to the dissolution of the "Community" in 1846.

Baker's Meadow: The only way that an early grant of land could be designated or described was by comparing its position with another plot noted for some geographical peculiarity, or by its being owned by a per-

son conspicuous in the affairs of a certain neighborhood. A descriptive term found continually in the old town records is "which lyes up the Mill River." This seems a vague way to designate a piece of property, but with the aid of an additional landmark the land was plotted to the satisfaction and understanding of those concerned. A spot in Florence that served as a landmark, or general reckoning place, in the early days of Northampton was known as Baker's Meadow. This meadow is small in size and lies in the southerly part of the village, south of River road and north of Mill River, the western end being about one hundred rods below the dam of the Nonotuck Silk Company. It is one of the few places so described by the town authorities that after a period of two hundred years the boundaries may still be traced. But for this clear description the very early history of the village would have remained in obscurity, since had we failed to recognize Baker's Meadow the task of locating the one acre grant to Samuel Parsons (mentioned in Chapter IV.) would have been a hopeless one.

The original grant as taken from the town records is as follows :—

"The Record of Mr. Edward Baker's land :—More granted to him by the Towne of Northampton as is above expressed lying up the Mill River a pcell of Meadow lying compassed partly with a steep bank somewhat like a halfe moone northerly, easterly against the hill and a brooke, Bordering on the Mill River Southerly, (at) the other end of the Meadow the hilly bank comes to the River; containing in estimation nine acres be the same more or lesse."

The date of this grant was April 2, 1662. An examination of this meadow will show how well the grant describes the spot. It is probable that Baker's Hill was like everything else in the vicinity, "Neere Baker's Meadow," and after a time took the name which to this day commemorates the first owner of the meadow below.



WARNER'S (LEONARD'S) POND.

Stoddard's Meadow : The original Stoddard's Meadow comprised the land east of Water street and south of Mill River, and, in the language of the authorities, "lys on the south side of the Mill River opposite or against the land granted by the towne to Edward Baker, and is known

by the name of Baker's Meadow." In 1701 this triangular meadow was granted Mr. Stoddard for setting up a sawmill. Later Stoddard's Meadow was the name given to all the interval land between Nonotuck street and the river, from the oil mill on the west to Baker's Hill on the east.

PLAINS.—According to Temple and Sheldon's "Northfield" this term as used by the early settlers had a restricted meaning. It was not applied to level lands in general, but to certain well defined tracts that had some common peculiarity of soil and condition, were nearly free from trees, and could be readily cultivated.

Bear Hill Plain is mentioned in the early deeds and is on the map of 1754. This name was applied to the flat country north of the railroad track, south and east of Bear Hill, and to this day it is sometimes called "the plains."



BROUGHTON'S MEADOW.

The *Millstone Mountain Plain* recorded on the early maps extended from Bridge road near the Catholic Cemetery south and west to Locust and Hatfield streets. When the railroad was built from Northampton to Williamsburg in 1867 the cut in the vicinity divided this plain into two parts.

Broughton's Meadow Plain is occasionally found in the early records, and included the upland above the river, now the center of the village. Before the formation of the "Community" the term was in common use to designate this locality. Like the greater part of the ancient names this one has long ceased to be used, and is only found in the musty records of the past. The transfer of ownership ordinarily welcomes a new appellation, unless the spot bears some peculiarity so great as to render it and the old name inseparable.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Some points of special interest, additional landmarks, it may be well to describe.

Burt's Pit, named for Gaius Burt, lies near the southwestern boundary of Florence, off the road leading to Easthampton. It was previously called Seeger's Swamp. Large quantities of muck are annually dug in this region. "Burt's Road" leads to the pit.

Bear Hill Swamp lies northeast of the hill, in the rear of Spring Grove Cemetery.

ELEVATIONS.—For those who enjoy facts the following table has been inserted. With few exceptions the altitudes have been taken specially for this volume. Figures give the height *above mean* sea level. The general level of Florence is about 270 feet. Slight mathematical calculations will give the relative height of any point.

Junction Main and Maple streets,	275 feet.
Bear Hill, north summit,	494
Bear Hill, south summit,	430
Baker's Hill,	335
Strawberry Hill,	325
Fortification Hill,	332
Millstone Mountain,	300
Junction Federal and South Main streets,	214
Dam of Nonotuck Silk Company,	232
Dam at Bay State Cutlery,	202
Junction Nonotuck and Maple streets,	235
Floor of Meadow street bridge,	243



MILL RIVER—FROM BRUSH SHOP BRIDGE.



COSMIAN HALL. BROUGHTON'S MEADOW—VILLAGE IN DISTANCE. SCHOOLHOUSE.
METHODIST CHURCH. CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

CHAPTER II.

INTRODUCTORY.

HOW NORTHAMPTON WAS SETTLED.—THE NONOTUCK INDIANS.—THE DEED OF NORTHAMPTON.—CONDITION OF THE COUNTRY AS THE SETTLERS FOUND IT.—THE DIVISION OF THE LANDS AT NONOTUCK.

IN order properly to follow the course of events leading to the settlement of Northampton and Florence, let us briefly consider what otherwise might seem out of place here. The great English emigration to this country which began with the coming of the Pilgrims in 1620, reached its highest mark in 1630, and ten years later had nearly ceased. During this time twenty thousand English came to New England. Towns multiplied rapidly. Differences of opinion in matters of town government led some adventurous ones to emigrate to the Connecticut Valley, and by 1636 the towns of Wethersfield, Hartford, Windsor, and Springfield had been founded.

The "Great Falls," as the Indians called the rapid water at South Hadley, hindered the settlement of the attractive country north of them, because all supplies had to come to the new plantations by way of the Connecticut river, therefore no one desired to be above boat navigation. So it was eighteen years after the settlement of Springfield, before Northampton was founded by men from Wethersfield, Windsor, and Springfield.

The Nonotuck Indians occupied the portion of the Connecticut Valley extending from South Hadley Falls to Mount Wequomps (now Sugar-Loaf). In 1690 the tribe numbered not far from three hundred souls, and not more than one hundred of these could have been warriors. They had forts on both sides of the river. They lived on fish, game, nuts, fruits, berries, tuberous roots, Indian corn, pumpkins, and after the English came they raised a kind of bean. They had several cultivated fields of from twelve to twenty acres each. The English always purchased the land from the Indians, who knew what a deed meant.

THE DEED OF NORTHAMPTON.

"Be it known by these presents, that Chickwallopp, alias Wawhillowa, Nenassahalant, Nassicohee, Kiunks, Paquahalant, Assellaquompas, & Awonusk, the wife of Wulluther, all Nonotuck, who are the chief & proper owners of all the lands on the west Side of Connecticut river at Nonotuck, on the one * do give, grant, bargain & Sell unto John Pynchon, of Springfield, on the other party, to him, his Heirs, & Assigns, all the Grounds & Meadows, Woods & Ponds & W lying on the west side of Quonetticut river, beginning the Small river (below Munham) called Sankrohonk, & So up by Quonetticut river to the little meadow called Capawonk, namely, to the little brook or Gutter on this Side Capawonk, which little brook is called Masquampe, and the Grounds lying Westward from Connecticut river (within the Compass Aforenamed) for nine Miles out into the Woods, viz.: as far as Manshoonish is from Springfield,—for So it was expressed to the Indians,—all that Tract of Grounds from Sankronk riveret, & Quonackquck called Munham, Poihnack, Petowwag, Aspowounk, Luckcommuck, Assattayyagg, Nayyagg, Nayyvumkegg, Masqump, & by whatsoever other names the Said Grounds are called, & all out into the woods from the great river for 9 Miles within this compass, The aforesaid Indians, & in Particular Wawhollowa, Nenessahalant, & Nassacholee, being the Sachems of Nonotuck, do for themselves, & with the Consent of the other Indians and owners of the said Grounds, Sell, Give, and Grant unto John Pynchon, of Springfield, & to his Assigns for & in the Consideration of One hundred fathom of Wampam by Tale & for Ten Coats (beside Some Small Gifts) in hand paid to the said Sachems & owners, all the land aforesaid as * these presents have bargained, Granted & Sold to the said * Pynchon all & Singular the Said lands free from all Incumbrances of Indians, provided the Said Pynchon Shall plow up or cause to be plowed up for the said Indians Sixteen acres of land on the Easterly side of Quonetticut river, which is to be done Sometime next Summer, 1654; And in the mean time, viz., the next Spring 1654, The Indians have liberty to plant their present Cornfields, but after that time they are wholly to leave that west Side of the river, & not to plant or molest the English there.

"All the Said Premises the Said Pynchon & his Assigns Shall have & enjoy Absolutely & clearly forever, all Incumbrances from any Indians or * their Cornfields. In Witness of this presents the said Indians have Subscribed their marks this twenty-fourth day of September, 1653."

THE MARKS OF THE INDIANS.



PAQUAHALENT. NENASSAHALENT. CHICKWALLOP. NASSICOHER. SKITTOMP.

NOTE.—This deed was witnessed by four white men and three Indians. The Indians were Wutchamin, Nammeleck, and Skittomp, alias Unquask, of Chicquabee.

* Omissions in deed.

Pynchon was agent, purchasing the land for the settlers. This sale of Nonotuck embraced the territory in the present towns of Northampton, Easthampton, Southampton, Westhampton, and a part of Hatfield and Montgomery. Chickwallop, Umpanchella, and Quoquont were the principal Nonotuck chiefs, and claimed the southern, middle, and northern part of the territory, respectively.



MAP SHOWING LANDOWNERS IN FLORENCE TERRITORY—1754.

NOTE.—This shows the three principal highways, the "North," "South," and middle roads, the latter called "Isaac's Way." The two vertical lines divided "Inner Commons" from "Long Division." The lots in Long Division were numbered in regular order from the Hatfield town line through to Easthampton. A space for a highway was left between lots Nos. 33 and 34, and for another road near the bridge between lots Nos. 40 and 41. By careful search one can find the three plains, Bear Hill, Broughton's Meadow, and Millstone Mountain, as well as other points of interest.

Was this an unbroken wilderness when the pioneers came to Northampton? Did an immense forest cover all this vicinity where now stand beautiful villages, towns, and cities? No, not by any means. Each autumn the Indians burnt over all the country. This destroyed the brushwood, scorched the older trees, and kept the country open for travel and hunting; so when the settlers came they found the meadows generally free from trees and brush, and grass and fodder growing on the hillside. Good timber was scarce; the wet lowlands alone were heavily wooded, and here game abounded.

The petitioners voted that "every singell man" shall have "foare acres" and "every head of a phamily six acres of meadow." Besides this, each settler was granted a home-lot, generally of four acres. Judd quotes this as the rule by which the lands were divided: "Fifteen acres to the head of a family, three acres to a son, twenty acres to a one hundred pound estate." When meadow land proved swampy, a larger tract of upland was granted in its stead, as the latter was not considered so valuable. But the meadow land in the eastern part of the town did not hold out, so they came westward to Broughton's Meadow, and to other land lying up the Mill River.



WHEN WE WERE BOYS.

All the land not divided was held "in common," each individual having certain rights in this unoccupied territory. Later, portions of "the commons" were divided among individuals. At one time the township was divided into two principal parts: one, of the land on the eastern boundary, including most of the territory within the present village of Florence, which was called "Inner Commons"; the other, laid out at a later date, took in all the western portion of the township, and was called "Long Division." Other sections were named "Old Hatefield," "Lovefield," "Little" and "Mountain" divisions. On some Northampton maps these ancient divisions are still to be seen.

CHAPTER III.

FROM 1654 TO FIRST SETTLEMENT.

THE FIRST VISIT OF THE ENGLISH TO FLORENCE TERRITORY, AND THE FIRST OWNERS OF LAND THERE. — THE FIRST ENTERPRISE IN FLORENCE. THE SAWMILL OF LYMAN BROTHERS, WRIGHT & PARSONS. — THE ONE ACRE GRANT TO PARSONS, AND ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE PLACE.—THE HULBERTS.

THE exact date when the English first visited Florence is not recorded. Inside of three years after Northampton was settled, it is known that the site of the village had been visited, not by explorers alone, but by those officially appointed to divide the lands in this vicinity. The first grant of land that we have been able to find and locate with any degree of certainty, now within Florence territory, was made to John Broughton, formerly of Springfield, one of the first settlers at Northampton. The utmost difficulty is experienced in locating these first grants of land, since the authorities did not take pains to describe them so that later generations could easily locate them. John Broughton's grant was favored in this particular, so to-day we place him as one of the first owners of land in Florence. Below is the item appearing in the Proprietors' book :—



NEAR LOCUST GROVE.

"The Record of John Brotton's Land which was granted to him by the Towne of Northampton and to his heirs, executrs and assigns to have and to hold forever. taken December 12, 1657. [Several pieces of land including]

"another pcell of Land which Lieth up the Mill River wch is thus bounded: Bordering on the Mill River Westely and on the Commons or hill wch compasseth it like an elbow Eastely and Southely Bounded on the Northely end on the Land of Lieut. William Clark, being in estimation five acres in lieue of four in the meadow—five acres more or less."

The two clauses that aided in locating this grant were "Lieth up the Mill River," and bordering on "the Commons or hill which compasseth it like an elbow." The location of this grant is on the easterly side of Mill River, in Ross's Meadow, north of Meadow street and west of Lilly street, directly in the rear of the house long owned and occupied by Mr.

Dwight A. Ross. The line dividing the two sections of land known as "Inner Commons" and "Long Division" at one time ran along the top of the high bank just west of Lilly street. By examining the spot it will be seen that the hill "compasseth it like an elbow," true to the description. "The meadow" in the clause "in lieue of four in the meadow" no doubt refers to the great meadow in Northampton, as when no special name was mentioned this one was always understood.

Other grants in this vicinity followed in quick succession and in less than a year fully a dozen owned land in the meadows. Since Broughton was one of the first to own land there, the meadow took his name. He sold his grant in 1675 to Joseph Parsons, and in a few years nearly an entirely new set of proprietors came into possession.



"The quiet of the fields and woods
Sank deep into his soul."—*Whittier.*

To keep the cattle within the proper bounds the settlers had to fence portions of "the Commons," and each man had to build and keep in repair "his proportion," as determined by the amount of land he owned. Owing to the transfers of land from one to another, it was necessary every few years to draw up a new schedule of each man's "proportion." Those who did not want the trouble of looking after their "proportion" would "alienate" so many rods to some other settler by paying him a consideration.

Each section perfected an organization to keep the fence in repair, and as early as 1663 the landowners in the Broughton's Meadow had already organized, as is shown by the following order passed at a town meeting held that year: "It was voted that the Proprietors of the Meadow commonly called Broughton's meadow, that they shall have liberty to set their fence Streight on the bank on the Common land."

Another interesting grant was Edward Baker's allotment of a piece of meadow land in the southwestern part of the town. (See first chapter.)

Other owners of land on either side of the river at Broughton's

Meadow included Thomas Bascom, Josiah Dewey, Henry Woodward, James Cornish, William Clark, Joseph Leeds, Jonathan Hunt, and Medad Pomeroy. In 1673 Joshua Pomeroy had a grant of six acres of "swamp and upland." The upland must have been on North Main street, near the present residence of Mr. E. C. Davis, and the records say it was given Pomeroy "to build upon." Evidently he did not consider the locality a favorable one for settlement, for no house was built here. Joseph Hawley bought the land of Pomeroy in 1684, "in all some twelve or sixteen acres." The original grant called it six acres. The early measurements were frequently faulty; the true acreage is often two or three times as much as the first grant called for. Thus Baker's Meadow, laid out for nine acres, in reality contains nearly twenty-seven.

THE FIRST ENTERPRISE.

No new plantation could long be without those indispensable adjuncts of any community—a sawmill and a gristmill, or, as the latter was always called in the days of our forefathers, a "corn-mill." Very soon after a town had been planted some enterprising man asked permission in town meeting to establish these industries, and as early as 1657 Northampton had a gristmill, and by 1671 a sawmill had begun its work.



RAILROAD STATION.

Nearly three miles westward from the center, Mill River flowed through Broughton's Meadow, and a natural fall might then be seen where now the dam of the Nonotuck Silk Company stems the stream. The early inhabitants of Northampton were not slow in deciding that here was an excellent opportunity to develop a water power, and no doubt they foresaw that some day mills would stand on either bank, and the busy whir of machinery would drown the noise of the waters tumbling over the rocks near by.

Five years after the close of Philip's war the times appeared favorable for a new undertaking, and at a town meeting held on the second of January, 1681, four men asked permission to erect another sawmill in town. This permission was granted, as may be seen by the following order copied from the Town Records, Book I., page 55:—

"Jan. 2, 1681.

"On a Motion of Richard and Thomas Lyman, Samuel Wright and Samuel Parsons to have a place and liberty to set up a Sawmill, the Town the day first above written granted their request on Consideration

"1st. That they Set it up within one Twelvemonth after the date hereof

"2nd. provided it be no damage to the Corn Mill which stands on the Same Stream

"3rd. That when they desert the place as to the use abovesaid, then the place to return to the Town again

"The place they desired is above Broughton's Meadow on the Mill river."

This is the way the first enterprise in Florence had its beginning. But the careful reader has already found that the grant does not conform with the previous conditions set forth in the narrative. Instead of having liberty to build a sawmill near the present Nonotuck dam, the order reads, "the place they desired is above Broughton's Meadow." There are two ways to account for this. One is that during the discussion regarding the location of the mill, both "above" and "below"



NONOTUCK SILK COMPANY'S DAM.

Broughton's Meadow were mentioned, and that the scribe in recording the vote made the mistake and substituted "above" for "below." But as this is hardly probable, let us look for another explanation. In examining Mill River to find a suitable place for their mill, this Lyman, Wright, and Parsons combination could not discover "above" Broughton's Meadow a site adapted to their needs, and so they chose a spot near

the present dam. It is certain that they built no mill "above" Broughton's Meadow, and though only a few slender data have been left from which to draw an inference, it is safe to conclude that they fulfilled the conditions of the grant and erected the mill within a "twelvemonth." It evidently stood on the west bank of the river, the spot now marked by two small trees near the end of the Nonotuck dam.

The next record concerning this first enterprise in Florence is in the year 1700, when the following item was entered in the town book :—

"At a legal Town meeting, February 6, 1700,

"The Town did then grant to Samuel Parsons one acre of land near his Sawmill between Broughton's and Baker's meadow to be to him and his Heirs forever."



LILLY STREET.

This grant of land, unimportant in itself, furnishes us with the connecting link, and shows us, first, that undoubtedly Lyman Brothers, Wright, and Parsons erected their mill below Broughton's and above Baker's Meadow, and therefore it must have been in Florence near the present dam ; second, that in 1700 this mill was still standing, and at some previous time three of the first owners had sold their interest to Samuel Parsons, as the grant distinctly states "his mill." Mr. Parsons was the son of Joseph Parsons, 1st, sometimes called Cornet, who was a leader in the affairs of the town.

No one knows how long Samuel Parsons continued to own and operate the sawmill. During the opening years of the eighteenth century the Northampton records contain grants of land in Florence terri-

tory, "on the road as we go to the Saw-Mill," "near the mill," etc., telling us it was still in use.

Samuel Parsons moved to Durham, Connecticut, in 1708–9, and it is not known whether he sold the mill before he went away, or not. The next item that enables us to take up the lost thread is found near the close of the year 1726, when John Stoddard purchases two pieces of land of the town, one of which in the words of the scribe: "Lyeth cheifly in a Swamp on the Westerly side of Mr. Stoddard's land, *near Hulbert's Saw-mill.*" Soon after 1700 John Hulbert owned land in this vicinity, and probably he bought the sawmill soon after Parsons left town, for if but recently purchased this fact would have been mentioned in Stoddard's sale.

Information regarding the Hulbert family in Northampton is extremely scanty. William Hulbert, one of the first settlers at Northampton, left several children, and at least three grandsons made Northampton their home. Careful search has failed to bring to light any facts concerning their residence here, but the following inferences may be of interest. By the Stoddard item already quoted we know the Hulberts owned the mill in 1726. Whether John was alone, or in company with his brothers, James and Samuel, or whether others of that family, sons of these mentioned, continued the business is not known. In 1733 the town "voted to build a bridge* over Mill river above Hulbert's Sawmill." In 1743 the town marked off a tract of land in the western part of the township, "Between which lines they" [all the inhabitants] "propose to cut wood and timber for the Space of ten years next coming." One of the boundary lines ran "from the front of Long Division at the Bridge by Hulbert's Sawmill westerly three-fourths of a mile." On the map of 1754, "Hulbert's Sawmill" is again mentioned. It seems probable that some one of the family owned and operated the mill up to about this time.



HULBERT COAT OF ARMS.

Four years later, in 1760–1761, the property had passed into the hands of several individuals, each owning from one tenth to one fifth. Of the six owners five were Clarks. In 1768 nearly the same proprietors appear. The mill was not considered a very great acquisition, for the valuation in 1760 is quoted at only £10, in 1762 at £18, in 1768 at £20, and in 1769 at £10 again. After 1769 the thread is again lost, and

* This was the first bridge across Mill River in Florence.

Daniel Warner, Joseph's father, born in 1717, married 1745, lived near his father at Blackpole. It is sometimes the duty of the historian to be at variance with tradition, as it is in this case. The story, as handed down from father to son, is the same as all published accounts up to this time, namely, that Daniel Warner was the first to remove permanently to Florence, and that the date was about 1759. But diligent search in the Judd manuscript has revealed the fact that Daniel Warner was at Blackpole in 1763 (four years after he was said to have come to Florence) and in 1767 was still residing there. Then in another place we learn that "Joseph Warner built his house in 1778." As Judd wrote this while Mr. Warner was living (1835) it is no doubt correct.

Joseph Warner was then a young man of twenty-six years. The next year, 1779, he married Jerusha Edwards and they began housekeeping at the new home near "Bear Hill," which was then a rather desolate locality. For many years their house was the only one between Blackpole and Williamsburg. Later they had "neighbors" in Haydenville. This first house stood on the site of Mr. John F. Warner's residence on North Main street. Although the time of log cabins had gone by, as sawed boards were then in common use, this house must have been a primitive structure as compared to our modern ones. At this time few could afford the luxury of lathed and plastered walls. The immense chimney furnished fireplaces for the rooms on the four sides of it, and these dispensed comfort and good cheer to all who gathered around them.



RESIDENCE OF JOHN F. WARNER.

The father in this household was well known in the community not only as a man of intelligence and good judgment, and of strict integrity in all his relations with his fellow men, but as a devout and conscientious Christian. The mother, too, was an eminently godly woman. Joseph Warner lived to be eighty-four. He died April 15, 1836, younger than the three preceding ancestors, who had reached the ages of eighty-seven, eighty-nine, and ninety, respectively. Mrs. Warner died in 1833, aged seventy-four.

The children of Joseph Warner were eleven in number. Oliver, Solomon, Electa, Jerusha, Sarah, Joseph, Seth, Moses, Miriam, Aaron, and John were the good old-fashioned names by which they were known. The three oldest sons, Oliver, Solomon, and Joseph, remained in Flor-

ence, and from this fact the locality took the name of the "Warner School District." Oliver and Solomon, early in this century, built taverns, one in Florence center, and the other towards Leeds. The third son, Joseph Warner, 2d, married in 1814, and made his home with his father on the old homestead. He worked on the farm, which now contained three hundred acres, and when his father became advanced in years took the burden of directing affairs from the old man's shoulders. He was selectman several years, and represented the town in the General Court. His death in 1840 was only four years after his father had passed away. His wife survived him twenty-eight years. They had six children. The oldest son, Joseph, was the silk manufacturer. The youngest child, John Flavel Warner, remains on the farm.



THE OLD WARNER HOMESTEAD.

The old homestead, which, with the additions and the sheds, covered considerable ground, was replaced in 1868 by the present modern structure. A part of the old place was moved to the corner of Bridge road and Oak street, and in its remodeled form may still be seen there.

THE SECOND SETTLER.—Daniel Warner did not remain long at Blackpole after his son Joseph had gone to his new home in Florence. Probably not more than a year or two elapsed before he was snugly settled in the small house which he built on a ridge about ten rods west of his son Joseph's house. For many years previous to the time when Joseph built his house (1778), Daniel had owned considerable land on Broughton's Meadow and on the plain near Bear Hill. In order to cultivate this farm he had had one or two log cabins there long before 1778. One of these stood about fifty rods south of the highway, nearly at the point of a V-shaped piece of land running back from Mr. J. F. Warner's tobacco barn. Here Mr. Warner sometimes lived during the summer when the crops required his constant attention. As early as the French and Indian wars (1744–48) (1753–63) he used to work out in the meadows, always carrying his gun to rely upon in case of emergency. It is recorded (not tradition) that once he had a very remarkable escape from death at the hands of the Indians, at a spot a "little below Broughton's Meadow."

Unfortunately Judd, the recorder, failed to give the details of this interesting experience, which he no doubt could have obtained.

Fire destroyed Daniel Warner's house in 1790. He was an old man then (born 1717) and, instead of rebuilding, an addition was made to his son's house, and in this he spent his declining years. He died in 1804. His wife survived him nine years, reaching her ninety-second year.



GATE TO THE PASTURE—WARNER FARM.

Here is an anecdote of Daniel Warner's wife: Her maiden name was Jemima Wright, born 1722. For some years before her marriage (1746) she lived in Col. Timothy Dwight's family. She used to tell her grandchildren that the first tea in Northampton was sent up to Colonel Dwight by a friend in Boston. It was not called tea, but simply "Bohea." Instead of using a small quantity they steeped it just as they would an herb, all at once, a quarter of a pound or more, and in consequence it was so strong that they could not drink it.

THE PHELPS HOUSE.—Until about 1785 there was a third house in Florence, but it appears to have had no occupant. The interesting account of how it came to be here is given as we find it in Judd's manuscript: —

"William Phelps' place at Blackpole was narrow in front, eight or ten rods, and went back in the rear of Warner's lot. It was for a time owned by S. Stoddard, and he sold it to Daniel Warner, who owned land north of it. * * *

"The old Phelps house was two story, and Moses Bartlett was to have it to live in out at Stoddard's Meadow.* While Stoddard owned the Phelps lot, he had the house removed with some difficulty. It was removed by the North road† (other too narrow), and then across below the Oil Mill to the meadow, some distance below the upper end of the meadow. The woods were cut away to make a path for it, and it was left on the flat above the meadow. Bartlett changed his mind, his affairs and Mr. Stoddard's changed, and nothing more was done to the house. It rotted down there. This was about 1785."

The Daniel Warner referred to was a son of Daniel who came to Florence. This Solomon Stoddard was the distinguished son of the popular preacher of the same name, who was the second minister at Northampton.

Can you not see that two-story house creeping along Bridge road on

* See Chapter I. for "Stoddard's Meadow."

† See Early Roads and Bridges, Chapter VI.

its way to Florence? Then appliances for moving buildings were not as complete as they are now, and the task must have been a slow and tedious one. But if this was the case on the plain highway, what must it have been when the woods had to be cut away "to make a path" for the house! No one knows the spot where it finally rested, only to crumble to pieces at last. From the description it would seem to have been between Nonotuck street and River road. This would be called the "flat above the meadow." Why did Moses Bartlett want any house, and this one in particular, on Stoddard's Meadow? In this case "time will tell,"—never.

SETTLEMENT BY GAIUS BURT, 1798.—For twenty years Daniel and Joseph Warner were the only residents in this part of Northampton. Then Gaius Burt moved to Broughton's Meadow, and the settlers numbered three. He was an energetic, industrious man, of the resolute, hard working type. He had descended from David Burt, one of the first settlers at Northampton. His father, Elkanah, lived in the center of the town, where Gaius was born in 1775. Like Joseph Warner, when Gaius came to Florence he was a young man about twenty-five years old, and had only recently been married to Hannah Alvord.



A NOVEMBER DAY—THE ROSS HOMESTEAD.

On March 14, 1798, he bought of Solomon and Luther Clark, thirty acres of land in the meadow, which was the same as the present Ross farm on Meadow street. For this valuable thirty acres of alluvial soil he paid the very moderate sum of one hundred and twenty-three dollars. It is probable that he removed soon after, and erected a house* a few rods east of the present Ross homestead. This house was a small one-story, unpainted structure, and was torn down about 1870. In 1801–3–5, Burt added forty-seven acres to his farm, and in 1809 purchased the triangular piece of land opposite his house, containing twenty-five acres. By his thrift and prudence he soon acquired considerable property. He

*The late Julius Phelps, born 1820, said that as far as he knew this house was built in 1801.

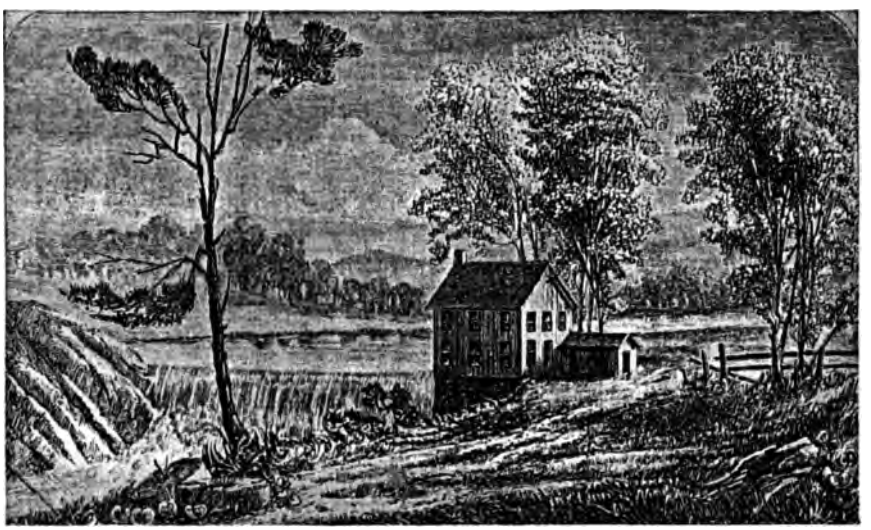
had two sons and several daughters. The oldest son, Theodore, before 1830 had built a house a few rods west of his father's, the present Ross homestead. The other son, William, married one of Paul Strong's daughters. In 1834, Gaius and William Burt sold their Broughton Meadow farm to Samuel Whitmarsh. Gaius' daughter Frances had married Mr. Ahira Lyman, who lived on Park Hill, Easthampton; so, after his sons had left for the west, Gaius bought a fifty acre farm just south of the Lymans, and here he lived till his death, February 3, 1840, aged seventy-four.

JOSIAH WHITE AND HIS OIL MILL.—Conspicuous among the early residents of Florence stands Josiah White. The thread of the sawmill history, which was lost in the year 1768, is next brought to light in connection with this interesting man. On Christmas day, 1800, a deed was signed by "Josiah White, of Winchester, New Hampshire, millwright," and Solomon Clark of Northampton. This document set forth that for the sum of twenty dollars Clark was to sell White three acres of land "on the east side of the Mill River, near Hulbert's Mill." Who had owned Hulbert's Mill from 1762 to 1806 is not known. In the latter year "Erastus Clark, Innkeeper," sold two thirds of the mill to Phinehas Alvord for three hundred dollars. This first industry did not then consist of a sawmill alone, for in the deed conveying the property to Alvord, Clark wills "all my right in the Auger Mill and Lathe at aforesaid Saw Mill." It seems reasonable that a house was built here before 1800, for the operators of the sawmill. In 1830 two small houses stood just west of the Brush Shop bridge. No one has been able to tell and no record has been found stating when or by whom they were built, but that one of them was there in 1806 is probable, as shown by another clause from the above deed, which reads, "Also the House that Elisha Babcock now lives in, together with all the Land under said House which I own." This seems to have been the fourth house in Florence.

The ownership of Hulbert's Mill was a company affair. The next year Alvord deals out small portions of the stock. Jonathan Newell invests forty-five dollars in "one sixth"; the next March he makes his sixth a third, but pays sixty dollars for change. About this time the industrious farmer Gaius Burt buys of Alvord a "sixth part," with "one sixth part of the mill yard, dam and all the utensils." Jonathan Newell was originally from South Hadley, and was an "oilmaker" by trade. He seems to have been the one who first interested White in this business. Although White bought the land on the east side of the dam in 1800, from 1803 till 1807 he lived in Northampton, running in company with William Edwards what they called the "Upper Mills." After selling out (1807) his interest to Edwards it is probable that he soon came

to Florence and began the erection of the building at the east end of the Nonotuck dam, afterwards used for the oil and grist mill. As Newell owned a controlling interest in the sawmill on the opposite bank, together with the water privilege, he was probably in some way connected with White's new venture.

Four years later, March 14, 1811, it is apparent that White had become a full fledged oil maker and that the enterprise was firmly established, for on the above date Newell, who by this time had returned to South Hadley, sells White his five sixths of the sawmill, "situated in Northampton *by the Oil Mill, now owned and occupied* by the aforesaid



JOSIAH WHITE'S OIL MILL.
From Painting by C. C. Burleigh, Jr.

White." The remaining one sixth White purchased of Joseph Warner. The valuation is quoted as $300.00 in contrast to the £10 in 1769.

At that period it was customary for all farmers to raise flax. From the fibers of the bark of this plant the thrifty housewives made the homespun linen cloth, so useful and necessary in those days. No doubt Josiah White did a considerable business. He took the flaxseed and expressed the linseed oil, the seeds being first bruised or crushed, then ground and afterwards subjected to great pressure. Henry Shepherd, Esq., remembers the huge hydraulic press, and especially the massive lever connected with it, that Mr. White used in obtaining the oil. The oil mill building stood on the east bank of the river, a little west of the present gate house near the Nonotuck dam. It was a two story building about twenty by

thirty feet. White soon saw the need of a gristmill, and so placed a run of stones in the same building. Mr. John F. Warner remembers taking corn to this mill to be ground. One half of one of the old millstones forms a doorstep to the Nonotuck Silk Company's office building. The dam was then some thirty or thirty-five feet farther up the stream. An old stump stands at what was the easterly end.

"Esquire" Josiah White was the sole proprietor of the water power, sawmill, gristmill, and oil mill. He lived in a cozy cottage he built soon after 1810, between the present Brush shop and the "old Silk Mill Boarding house," nearly opposite the large buttonball tree. It was afterwards moved to Meadow street, where it was enlarged and remodeled, and is now the second house west of Lilly street.

Josiah White was an original character. At the time he started the oil mill he had just passed middle life. Of a somewhat studious mind, and born and brought up when books were scarce, he had acquired the habit of reading everything he could lay his hands on. White was a self-made man, and did "all his own thinking." His scholarly turn of mind gave him the nickname of "Old Cicero," by which he was commonly known. He was an ardent Freemason. When King Ferdinand of Spain hanged Freemasons because they would not divulge their secrets, Mr. White heard of it, was very indignant, and vehemently remarked: "Ferdinand! Ferdinand! he'll find that thrones totter!" Mr. White died in 1832, aged seventy-four years. He had one daughter.

THE FIRST HOUSE IN THE CENTER OF THE VILLAGE.—Oliver Warner, the first child born in Florence, in 1780, was the son of Joseph, the first settler. He married in 1807, and two years later built the house now standing on the corner of Main and North Maple streets. This was the fifth house in this district, and Mr. Warner kept it as a tavern. About 1790 stage coaches came into use as public conveyances. Northampton was one of the principal stations on the line from Boston to Albany. The stages stopped at Oliver Warner's to water the horses, and allow the passengers to sample the "fire water."

In 1821 he sold the tavern, moved to Northampton, and purchased Asahel Pomeroy's place, which became famous under his management as the "Warner House." This was burned in 1870. Mr. Warner kept a hotel thirty-five years in all. He enjoyed a wide acquaintance in the country and state; was prominent in the political life of the town and county; served as selectman, representative, and senator. He was a distinguished man in his day, and left a name that will long be cherished by his townsmen. He died in 1853. He had nine children. Edward, born 1815, still resides in Northampton. Oliver, 2d, was a member of both branches of the Legislature, and Secretary of State.

CHAPTER V.

SETTLEMENT CONTINUED.

THE TAVERN OF SOLOMON WARNER.—CAPTAIN JULIUS PHELPS COMES IN 1815.—ENOCH JEWETT, 1816.—WILLIAM WARNER, 1817.—THE SETH WARNER HOUSE.—COLONEL THOMAS POMEROY, 1820.—THE DWIGHT FARM.—THE OLIVER WARNER TAVERN IN THE TWENTIES.

IN 1812, Solomon, the second son of the first settler, Joseph Warner, left the old homestead and built a house, a quarter of a mile northwest of his father's on the road to Leeds. This is near the limits of Florence but was a part of the old "Warner School District." He kept this as a tavern for nearly forty years, or until the railroads had revolutionized the prevailing stage coach mode of travel. Solomon Warner died in 1863. His son Moses lived on the old place until his death in December, 1893. The homestead, the accompanying barns, the rambling sheds and shanties present much the same appearance today as they did fifty years ago.



SOLOMON WARNER TAVERN SIGN.

CAPTAIN JULIUS PHELPS. — With one or two exceptions the early settlement of Florence was by men from Northampton. They were sober, industrious men, faithful in the performance of each duty, and impressed with the importance of strict integrity. Captain Julius Phelps was such a man. Thick set, a little over medium height, and brown from exposure to the elements, he presented the perfect picture of the old style New England farmer. He was the captain of an artillery company in Northampton about 1812, and in that year he marched his company to Boston to aid in defending the state. About 1815, when thirty-five years old, he removed from Northampton and built the one story and a half house in the meadows, which still may be seen at the junction of Meadow and Spring streets. Here he made his home till his death in 1857. Of his seven children four were sons. One of these, Julius, born in 1820, remained on the farm. He was well known and highly esteemed. He was an upright man and a good citizen, and an earnest worker in the Congregational church. He died June 4, 1892.

A story was told of Samuel Phelps, the father of Captain Julius, by his grandson, the late Julius. It is a singular fact that the late Moses Warner when interviewed on the subject of Florence history related the very same anecdote, without some of the minor details, but he made the hero his great grandfather, Daniel Warner. One or the other had made some mistake in identifying the principal actor, but, whichever one was correct, the hero was closely connected with the first settlers of Florence. The story is not unlike other Indians stories and should be taken with the customary "grain of salt." As recorded in Mr. Huntington's defunct "Pen and Press," the Phelps version is as follows :—

"There is a very interesting story of my grandfather and when first told to me, when a mere boy, it made a deep impression on my youthful mind, for it was an 'Indian story' and possessed much of that quality which both charms and excites boys. Late one afternoon, he went in search of the cows. The only way to learn the whereabouts of the cattle 'out to pasture' was by the tinkling of the bell that was fastened to the neck of one of the animals. As grandfather neared the spot where the sound of the bell seemed to indicate the cows were, he thought the bell sounded differently from the usual or peculiar tinkling which a bell has that is attached to the neck of an animal. The conclusion that he came to was that the Indians had taken the bell off from the cow's neck and were using it as a decoy to lead him a long way into the forest, perhaps to their camp, and thus easily capture him; but with great presence of mind he began to shout in a commanding voice as though he was giving orders to a large body of men. The Indians, supposing that a force of white men was right upon them, quickly fled, and so frightened were they that they deserted their camp, leaving their food and all their booty. Their camp was on that slight rise a short distance beyond where my house now stands, or to the left, just as you ascend the small hill."



THE SOLOMON WARNER TAVERN.

ENOCH JEWETT.—About 1816 Enoch Jewett moved from Northampton and became the neighbor of Oliver Warner. Enoch's father, Timothy Jewett, lived on Elm street, Northampton, nearly opposite Paradise road. He had a shop in the ravine opposite his house, and here his two sons, Enoch and Ansel, assisted their father in making and repairing spinning and flax wheels, and also in the manufacture of old-fashioned taps and faucets. In 1816, Enoch came to Florence and built the house on Main street of late years known as the Samuel Bottum place. His farm included a strip of land from Pine street to Bridge road. The house when built was a one story and a half structure. Here in addition to the care of the farm he made shuttles for the woolen factory at "Shepherd's Hollow" (now Leeds), using a foot lathe for turning, and also continued the tap and faucet business and repaired wheels.



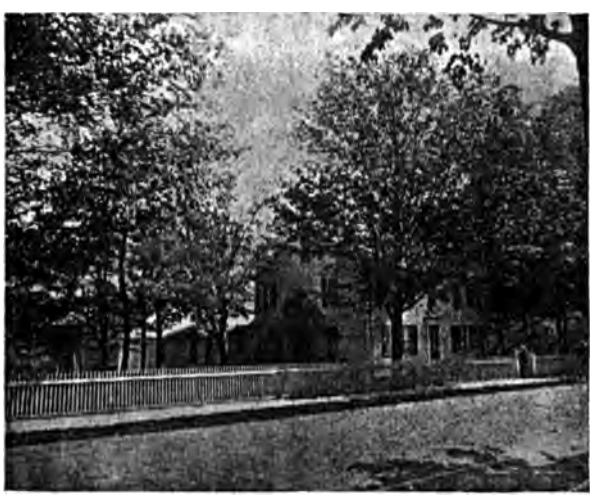
THE JULIUS PHELPS HOUSE.

In 1828 he purchased of William Clark for two hundred and twenty-five dollars eighty acres of land "situated on both sides of Brotton's Meadow Brook." He obtained permission of Dr. Hunt, who was a great fisherman and who owned the land adjoining, to build a dam across the brook, providing that Hunt should have the fish. Soon after 1828 (before 1830) he built the dam and raised the pond which became "Holland's," and later "Warner's" pond. The water power thus developed he used in a small shop which he built a few rods north of Leonard's Silk Mill, manufacturing warp bobbins and spools for woolen and silk mills. His early training in his father's shop had made him a skilled mechanic. He filled one order for seventy-five thousand warp bobbins for the Shepherd's Hollow mill.

In the closing month of the year 1833 he exchanged his farm, the Samuel Bottum place, for two hundred acres of wild wooded land near Brecksville, Ohio. Soon after he built a small house near his shop south of Warner's pond. It stands to this day just back of Leonard's Silk Mill boarding house. Here he lived for nearly ten years, or until he sold his

place, including the house, shop, dam, etc., to Conant, Swift, and Chaffee, November 30, 1842. The next May he moved to his Ohio farm. At this time Enoch Jewett was a straight, squarely built man of fifty-two years, standing about five feet eight inches tall, and weighing one hundred and sixty pounds. He had blue eyes, dark iron gray hair and whiskers, and was a quick, active man of few words. He died at Brecksville, Ohio, in 1872, aged eighty-one years. He left four children: Henry, who died at Grand Rapids, Mich., in 1886, aged seventy-two years; Isabella G., who died at Westhampton in 1888, aged sixty-nine; Edward and Albert G. The latter resides in Westhampton.

WILLIAM WARNER.—Whoever has a recollection of Florence in the earlier days remembers the "Polly Bosworth place." This was built by William Warner in 1817. William Warner did not belong to the family of Warners who first settled Florence. He was the son of Luther and Bathsheba Stebbins Warner, and was born in Springfield, Massachusetts, in 1794. At an early age he went to Chesterfield to live with his uncle. In early manhood he worked for "Landlord Edwards" at Roberts Meadow, where he became acquainted with Juliette Bridgman, to whom he was married January 30, 1817. Juliette Bridgman was the sister of Mrs. Oliver Warner, who at this time was living in Florence.



THE ENOCH JEWETT-SAMUEL BOTTUM PLACE.

On June fifteenth following his marriage, he paid Gaius Burt ten dollars for a half acre of land "lying between the roads leading to Chesterfield and Williamsburg." Here he built the one story house which Sylvester and Polly Bosworth afterwards owned and occupied. When Cosmian Hall was built in 1873, the house was moved to the foot of Lake street, near Warren street, its present location. William Warner built a blacksmith shop just west of his house and worked here at this trade. He did not remain long, however, for on March 24, 1820, he sold the place to Josiah Whitney of Northampton,

but possibly he rented it of Whitney until about 1823, when he bought a farm on Horse Mountain, where he lived several years. At one time he had charge of the Cecil Dwight farm and built the small house for one of the Colonel's sons. This house stood just west of the "Herdsdale" farmhouse, and was burned July 18, 1893. The old chimney remains, giving us a good idea of their usual size in the olden time.



THE WILLIAM WARNER HOUSE ON THE SITE OF COSMIAN HALL.

In 1840 he built the house next below the Brush Shop bridge, later occupied by the Dorsey family. His wife died in 1845, and the next year he married Mrs. Roann Lyman of Easthampton. Shortly after this he exchanged the Dorsey place in Florence for a South Deerfield farm, and removed to the latter, where he spent the remainder of his days, dying in 1874. His wife survived him only a week. Though a competent workman at several trades, he did more carpentry and farming than anything else. Faithful in whatever he undertook, he gave satisfaction to all of his employers. His five children now living are Sybella, widow of S. S. Eastman of Greenfield, Juliette, widow of Bella P. Searle of Belchertown, William, now living in Staten Island, N. Y., Frances, widow of William Metcalf of Northampton, and Susan A., widow of Charles L. Washburn of Belchertown.

THE SETH WARNER HOUSE.—The house on Bridge road near its junction with North Main street was built before 1819 by the first settler, Joseph Warner, for his son Seth. This son died soon after (December 28, 1819), and others of the Warner family made the house their home.

COLONEL POMEROY.—Colonel Thomas Pomeroy was one of the early settlers. In 1820, when twenty-five years old, he moved to Florence from the Center and built a house on the brow of the hill on the north

side of Locust street, which was bought by D. G. Littlefield in 1865, and moved a few rods west to Main street, just east of Chestnut street. After Pomeroy sold the house to Littlefield, he went to Northampton, but the change of location did not suit him, and the next year, 1866, he returned and erected another house near the old homestead, on the corner of Pine and South Main streets, where he resided until his death in the fall of 1880, at the age of eighty-five years.

The Colonel was wont to say that when he came to Florence land was cheap and he could have purchased the entire territory for ten dollars an acre. Wild game was plenty, and flocks of wild turkeys were often seen in the vicinity of his house. Trout were also abundant, and a half hour was sufficient to enable even an indifferent angler to catch all that his ambition demanded. During his declining years, Colonel Pomeroy was a great friend of the young folks, and frequently carried candy in his pockets with which to treat the girls. At the old time husking bees, it was his great delight to find the red ears and he was always careful to reap the reward of his good luck. He was a genial, kind hearted old gentleman, and for many years a deacon in the Congregational church.

THE DWIGHT FARM.—Soon after 1820 (some say 1824) Colonel Cecil Dwight came to Florence and made a home for himself and family on the large tract of land lying in the northeast part of the village. A few rods west of the spot where to-day Chestnut street intersects Bridge road he built his house, which forms a part of the present "Herdsdale" homestead. Colonel Dwight descended from an old Northampton family. In early manhood he was a deputy sheriff, an auctioneer, and a colonel of militia, and in 1812 he represented Northampton in the state legislature. When he moved to Florence he was fifty years old. The farm comprised about three hundred acres, previously owned by his father, Major Timothy, who was an extensive landowner, and is said to have owned at one time a large part of "Long Division." Colonel Cecil was the only one of the large family of Dwights that chose Northampton for his permanent home. He was much employed as an arbitrator in difficult matters and actively promoted the material interests of the town. He was nearly six feet high, broad shouldered and muscular, with regular feat-



RUINS OF OLD CHIMNEY—HERDSDALE FARM.

ures and piercing black eyes. He had eleven children, all born before he moved to Florence. About 1830, he built, next to his own, a house for one of his sons. He occupied the farm until about 1835, when his son George took possession. Cecil Dwight died at Moscow, New York, November 26, 1839. In 1848 George Dwight died and the next occupant was Joseph Conant, who lived on the farm till 1852. Robert Fitts owned the place for six years ('54 to '60) when he sold it to Charles, a son of Ex-Governor Fairbanks, of Vermont. Constant cropping of the soil without just return had made the land poor. Although Mr. Fairbanks never lived here, he made extensive improvements on the farm, and for many years after he sold it it was known as the "Fairbanks Place." Various persons have owned it since, each owner giving it a new name. Once it was the "Chase Farm," then when D. W. Bond bought it he called it "Herdsdale," and now it is known as the "Knight Place."



HERDSDALE FARM.

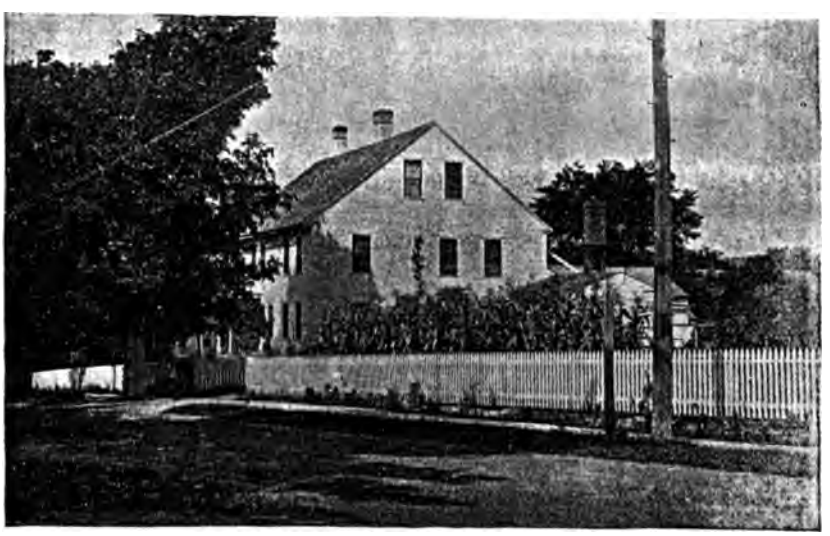
THE OLIVER WARNER TAVERN IN THE TWENTIES.

On the twenty-ninth of May, 1820, "Andrew and Henry W. Lord of Saybrook, Connecticut, merchants," purchased the tavern stand of Oliver Warner. After four years, the father, Andrew Lord, exchanged with James Hutchinson of Northampton, his half interest in the tavern for the William Warner homestead (the Polly Bosworth house), which Hutchinson had owned just a year. About this time a building was put up opposite the tavern, on the site of the present hotel, and presumably it was built by Andrew Lord for a shop. Here he made and sold combs, and kept a small line of toys, and Messrs. Henry Shepherd and Edward Warner of Northampton both have vivid recollections of how attractive to their youthful eyes was this neat little store, filled with all kinds of toys. Mr. Shepherd thinks that Mr. Lord made in his shop the toys he sold. It seems a strange place for such a store, situated as it was so far from the center of the town. The half interest Mr. Hutchinson had purchased of father Lord he sold the next spring to the son, Andrew Lord, who was granted an innholder's license in March, and remained sole proprietor

until April 28, 1826, when the tavern with the accompanying thirty acre farm was sold to James Shepherd for four thousand dollars.

In 1810 James Shepherd started the woolen mills in what is now the village of Leeds, then and for nearly fifty years afterwards known as "Shepherd's Hollow." He was one of the first persons in this country to manufacture broadcloths and woolens. Soon after he bought the tavern he erected a good sized building a few rods east of the tavern barn, nearly on the site of the present Knights of Honor block. He bought large quantities of wool in the "fleece," put up in great bales. As only a certain grade of wool could be made into broadcloth, all that he bought had to be assorted, the different grades selected and placed in separate bundles. This wool "loft" served both as an assorting and a store house.

Mr. Shepherd never occupied the tavern, but rented it to others. He failed in 1828, and Nathaniel Fowle, who had indorsed for Shepherd, seems to have taken upon himself the management of the tavern. Who the landlords of the inn were after Shepherd became proprietor in 1826, until Paul Strong bought the place in 1832, is not certainly known. Several names have been found in the records of the Court of Sessions as possible tavern keepers in Florence. They are as follows: 1826 and 1827, Luther White; September, 1828, no clew; 1829, Paul Strong; September, 1830, Harvey Kirkland; 1831, Ira Atkins, who afterwards kept the small shop opposite the tavern, or Charles Morton; and in June, 1832, Paul Strong was granted the license of an "innholder with spirits," at the "Lord house."



OLD SILK MILL BOARDING HOUSE—FORMERLY JAMES SHEPHERD'S WOOL HOUSE.

CHAPTER VI.

FROM 1831 TO 1835.

THE "TRAVELER'S HOME."—THE TAVERN STAND; AND AN EVENING SCENE.—EARLY ROADS AND BRIDGES.—THE LATER HISTORY OF THE SAW, GRIST AND OIL MILLS.

THE Paul Strong tavern was, in its day, the most prominent feature of Florence, and through it the surrounding settlement was known. The house now standing on the corner of Main and Maple streets was built in 1809, by Oliver Warner, but not until Paul Strong appears on the scene did the inn attain its greatest popularity.



PAUL STRONG.

Paul Strong was born in Westhampton, September 25, 1780. In the spring of 1800 he married Sarah Chapman, of Easthampton. They lived on a farm in Westhampton twenty-seven years, and their seven sons and four daughters were born there. In 1827 Paul went to Northampton and entered the employ of Oliver Warner, as bartender and clerk at the famous "Warner tavern." He purchased the Florence tavern in December, 1832, for thirteen hundred dollars, of the Greenfield Bank, into whose hands the Shepherd property had passed only a short time before. The farm included fifty acres of land lying north of Main and North Main streets. When the railroads were built about 1845 the tavern was discontinued. Paul Strong died in 1856, at the age of seventy-six. His wife died in 1864, aged eighty-four. Four of his children are living. Those in this vicinity are Mrs. Caleb Loud, of Loudville, and James William Strong, of Easthampton, the former eighty-three years old, and the latter seventy-four.

Situated on the turnpike from Boston to Albany, which previous to the advent of the railroads in 1841 was the usual route to the west, this Paul Strong inn received its share of the heavy patronage on the through line, and furthermore was a famous resort, especially in the winter, when sleighing parties came from all the surrounding towns. Near the close of the last century several lines of stages were in regular operation, and

one could travel with little difficulty or delay in almost any direction. The line to Albany was started in 1794, with Pease, Hunt & Co. the proprietors. Their advertisement appearing in an old *Gazette* reads :—

"The Stages leave Boston and Albany, on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday of every week, at five o'clock in the morning. The stage from Boston, on its way to Northampton, tarries the first night at Spencer, and the second at Northampton. The stage from Albany on its way to Northampton, (passes by New Lebannon Springs,) tarries the first night at Pittsfield, and the second night at Northampton, where they exchange passengers—and the next morning, at five o'clock [the hour was changed later to three] leave Northampton for Boston and Albany. The price of each passenger is 3d per mile, 14 lb. baggage gratis—150 lb. of baggage charged the same as a passenger."



MAIN STREET—LOOKING EAST FROM COSMIAN PARK.

As the years went by the patronage naturally increased till it reached a climax just before the railroads were opened. The travel here was immense for those days. Colonel Pomeroy used to say that he had known twelve heavily loaded stages to pass over this route in a day, during the height of the season at Saratoga. When the stage stopped to water the horses, many of the travelers were tempted to get "something" to brace up their flagging spirits near the close of an all day's journey, or to warm themselves both inside and out on some frosty morning when the very early start from Northampton had occasioned them no little discomfort. During all the time that this house was open for the accommodation of the public, liquors were sold at its bar as freely as the viands from its table. The flip-iron was in almost constant use, and the "flowing bowl" was drained with a frequency quite astonishing to the teetotalers of the present day.

THE TAVERN STAND; AND AN EVENING SCENE.—The old tavern presented much the same appearance in 1832 that it does to-day. Save for the addition now used by F. D. R. Warner as a store, and some minor changes on the rear, the old structure is the same on the outside. This cannot be said of the interior, the attic being the only part that bears no traces of the remodeling hammer and saw. In 1831, a casual observer from the highway would first notice the sign. It stood eight feet from and in line with the southeast corner of the main building, bearing on each side the inscription "Traveler's Home, P. Strong." Suspended on a pole that reached to the eaves, it swung back and forth, the sport of every gust of wind.



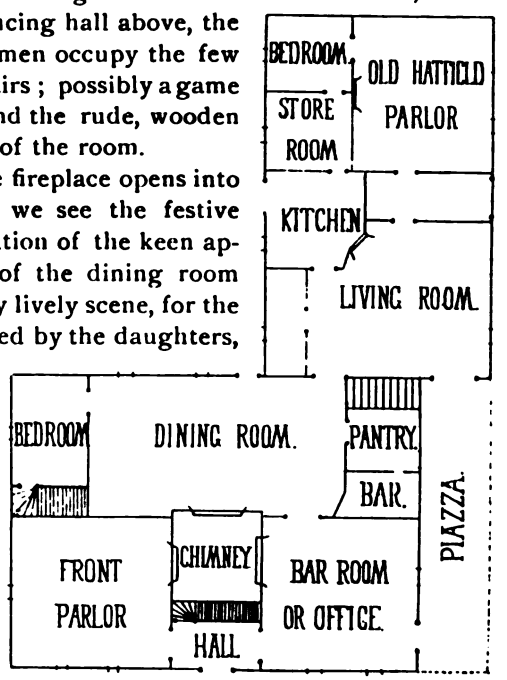
PAUL STRONG TAVERN SIGN.

Directly opposite the tavern was the small shop then occupied by Ira Atkins, who made patent leather, and was a saddler and harness maker by trade. West of the tavern was the garden. Boyhood days are the days to be remembered, and Mr. William Strong has retained vivid impressions of many incidents that took place in Florence when he was a boy. One day he was setting out bean poles, and when the task was nearly done he found—and who that ever set bean poles has not had the same experience?—that he had not poles enough to finish his plot. "As I looked around for one," he says, "I happened to see this little sprout of a buttonball tree. I cut it down and put it in the ground, and that tree that is there now (directly in front of Julius Maine's house) is a sprout of the old root from which I cut my bean pole." In the rear of the tavern was the bowling alley, the long, narrow building a favorite resort of the young folks when dancing was not in order. The tavern barn stood about where the Morgan house is now.

We have completed the inspection of the tavern surroundings, so now let us step inside. If the winter has set in and the genial host is entertaining a sleighing party, the sight will be a gay one. Entering the side door (the front door was used for state occasions only), we find ourselves in the office, or, as it was known in those days, the barroom. This room was the center of the social and political life of the village. On the opposite side of the room the huge open fire blazed brightly on the

hearth. To the right was the bar, and on the wall back of it were shelves holding rows of large bottles, conspicuously labeled "New Rum," "Old Whiskey," "Jamaica Rum," etc., etc. If the sleighing party has just arrived, the young ladies are warming themselves before the fire, but if they have adjourned to the dancing hall above, the driver and one or two other men occupy the few straight-backed homemade chairs; possibly a game of cards has been started around the rude, wooden table that stands in the center of the room.

The door to the right of the fireplace opens into the dining room, and within we see the festive board heavily laden in anticipation of the keen appetites of the guests. Back of the dining room is the kitchen, presenting a very lively scene, for the tidy wife of the landlord, assisted by the daughters, is busily preparing the feast. Passing through the front hall we enter the parlor, called the "front parlor," to distinguish it from the one in the rear of the house, and named "Old Hatfield" because it was so far away. But the sound of music and the shuffling of many feet leads us to the rooms above. After ascending the stairs that lead from the piazza we turn to the right and find ourselves in a cozy hall, twenty by thirty-eight feet, lighted by candles, and warmed by glowing fires in two good sized fireplaces. In the middle of the floor are the dancers, the men stamping heavily as they keep time to the music,* which comes from the solitary fiddler seated on the platform at the north end of the hall. Bursts of laughter mingle with the noise of the stamping and the squeaking of the violin, and the whole scene is one of excessive merriment. Late is the hour when the party breaks up, after having danced and supped to their heart's content. Bidding the landlord good night, they file out of the door and arrange themselves in the long box sleigh amongst a profusion of wraps, robes, and straw. The driver cracks the long whip, and in an instant the music of the bells is heard far down the road. The landlord, son, and hostler return to the barroom. Any soli-



GROUND PLAN OF TAVERN.

* It is stated that Samuel Parsons (father of Colonel Joe), while dancing in this hall, once stamped so hard that he knocked considerable plastering from the ceiling of the room below.

tary guest who has not already gone to bed is aroused from his sleepy mood, occasioned by the lateness of the hour and a too free indulgence in the flowing spirits. Taking the candle from the mantelpiece, the host precedes the weary traveler up the narrow staircase, and shows him the ice cold chamber in which he is to sleep. Soon the barroom is deserted by all save the hostler, who, after carefully "raking up" the embers in the big fireplace, stretches himself on the bunk at the right of the door, and in less than five minutes is sound asleep. Outside, the creaking of the sign as it swings to and fro in the gusts of wind that whistle around the corner is the only sound that disturbs the silence of the wintry night.

EARLY ROADS AND BRIDGES.

The first traveled way from the center to Florence was not a road in the modern sense of the word. It was simply a cart path made by cutting away the trees and brush and was laid out over the most con-

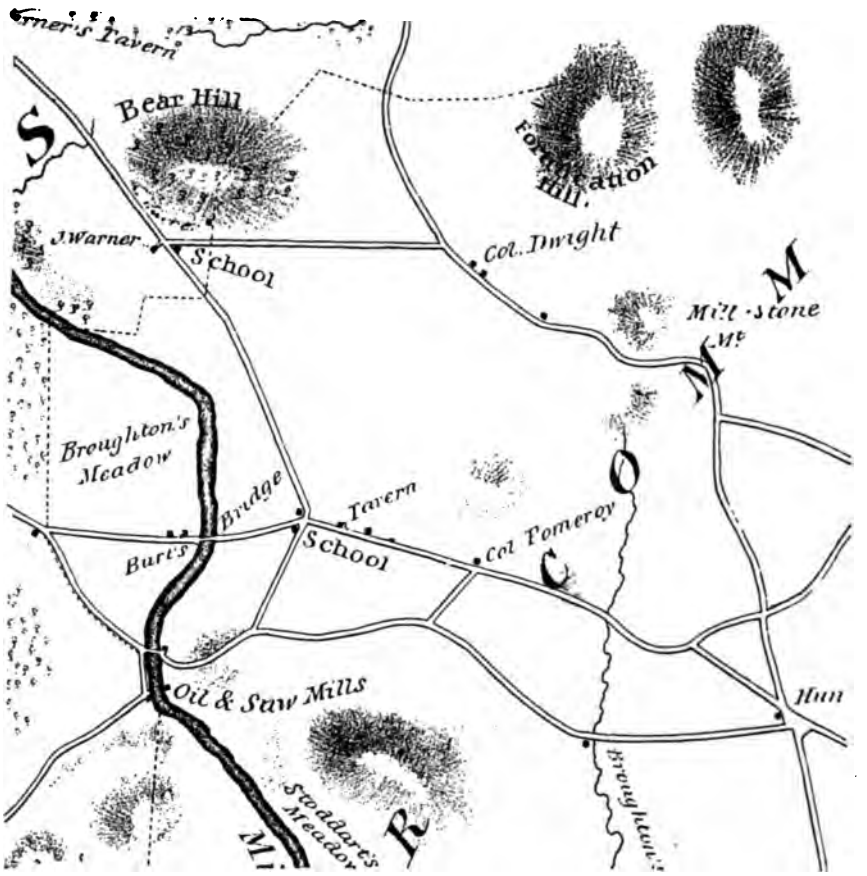


LOOKING TOWARD BRUSH SHOP BRIDGE, SHOWING DORSEY HOUSE.

venient route, always going around obstacles, such as large stones or marshy ground. The date of the layout of this first road is not recorded, but it was within fourteen years after the first settlers came to Northampton, as the following item from the town book shows :—

"Voted and agreed that the Committee here mentioned is Impowered by the Town to Treat with & to conclude (if they can) with Cornelius Merry to give him Satisfaction with respect to the Damage he sustained by the Town's taking a highway out of his lot that is up the Mill river at Broughton's meadow to be seven rods wide."

This first highway, starting from the junction of North Elm and Prospect streets, near the site of the old Dennison Water Cure, passed by the spot where the Dickinson Hospital now stands and led straight across the plain to Leonard's Silk Mill. The road crossed Broughton's



MAP OF FLORENCE, 1831.

brook just below the dam of Warner's (Leonard's) pond, then turned to the northwest, keeping on the brow of the hill till it coincided with the present Pine street at a point near the Kindergarten, thence followed that street till it came to the river, near the existing Brush Shop bridge. In 1702 this road was extended "through Broughton's Meadow," to a point near where Julius Phelps built in 1815. This first highway was later called "Stoddard's road," and after White built his oil mill it was known as the "oil mill road."

The other main road from Northampton from the same starting point led northerly to the Catholic cemetery, thence followed the route of the present "Bridge road" to Florence. This was for a long time called the "North road," in contrast to the "South road," by which the first highway was known. Both of these highways are shown on the map of 1754, on page 20, and the map on opposite page. In 1831 there was no road to Easthampton, and none south of the "oil mill road,"* all the territory from the dam to the old paper mill below Bay State being a wilderness, and an excellent hunting ground for the boys of the neighborhood. Albert G. Jewett, who hunted here when a boy, says the region was full of squirrels, partridges, skunks, woodchucks, and foxes. The Dwight farm ("Herdsdale") was not then easily accessible from the center of the settlement, the choice of routes being around by Joseph Warner's or by what is now Hatfield street and the Catholic cemetery.

No bridge was built in this region for eighty years after the settlement of Northampton. In the record of a highway "through Broughton's Meadow" in 1702 the following is found, "Which Highway as soon as you go over Mill river at the Common place of going over," proving



MEADOW STREET BRIDGE—FORMERLY BURT'S BRIDGE.

that there was no bridge at that time. Whether this fording place was at Meadow street or at Pine street is not known. The first bridge was built soon after December 25, 1733, as under this date the following item appears in the town book :—

"Voted to build a bridge over the Mill river above Hulbert's Sawmill as Soon as conveniently may be & that Ebenezer Clark, John Baker and Joseph Wright be a Committee & to take care to effect the Same."

* Nonotuck street was laid out in 1836.

The bridge was lower down than the present Pine street bridge and extended north and south across the river, only a few feet above the dam, which was then a little further up stream. The bridge needed repairing in 1736 and a committee was appointed to see to it. Soon it came to be known as "Hulbert's Mill bridge." In 1768 the bridge was rebuilt, but only four years after we find this in the town book :—

"And then on Information of the State of Hulbert's bridge, the Towne voted that Mr. Enoch Clark, the surveyor, be desired to provide a Sleeper and also provide and replace the hook posts and girts and make an effectual reparation of the same."

According to Judd, when Abner Hunt (born 1768) was a boy this bridge was where the Brush Shop bridge is now, so it is likely that when



FROM COSMIAN TOWER—EAST.

it was rebuilt in 1768 it was placed farther up stream. Since 1830 there have been three different bridges there, the first was of wood, with sidewalks on each side, and the second was the same as the present one, and was swept away by the Mill River flood.

THE LATER HISTORY OF THE SAW, GRIST, AND OIL MILLS.

The years just preceding the appearance in 1835 of Mr. Samuel Whitmarsh upon the stage on which he afterward played such an important part, were the years that witnessed the final development of the oil, grist, and saw mills. Early in the spring of 1822, Eliza, the only daughter of the veteran oil maker, Josiah White, was married to Colonel William W. Thompson of Brimfield. This union brought to Florence a man who afterwards became quite as conspicuous in the life of the settlement as Josiah White himself. Thompson lived with his father White in the little house near the Nonotuck dam before referred to. He was a strong Democrat, and at one time was a candidate for lieutenant-governor of this state. It is said that he was not over fond of work. Thompson was a great story teller (possibly because he was a politician), and was acquainted with everybody. He always drove a good horse in good style, and if reports are correct was one of "Uncle Paul's" best customers. He was six feet high, with broad shoulders, and a fine figure. His early education had been that of a lawyer, but he preferred to dabble in politics, smoke a cob pipe, and patronize the tavern bar, rather than do anything in his profession. His father White was growing old, and therefore Thompson worked about the mills. In 1832 White died and Thompson assumed the control and supervision of the various industries built up under the fostering care of the oil maker. The oil and grist mill at the east end of the dam was still in existence, although the oil business must have been practically defunct. The old water wheel that turned the mill stones and furnished power to the huge oil press was of a kind called a "Coffin wheel." From all we can learn of this wheel it must have been



Pausing here a minute, we will hear a squirrel chuckle,
As he darts from out the underbrush and scampers up a tree.
—*James Whitcomb Riley.*

of the reactionary type, which is illustrated in its simplest form by the wheel known as "Barker's mill." Anson Reed was employed by Thompson and worked at the grist mill. He moved to Newbury, Ohio, a few years after 1832.

On the opposite side of the river, a little below the dam, was the sawmill building, which at this time contained a machine shop and other industries. An overshot wheel at the south end of the dam furnished power for a sawmill on the first floor of the building. The log yard was on the high ground south of the mill. The basement was fitted up for a machine shop, with lathes, trip hammer, etc., and here Asher Shepherd and his son Frank did quite a business manufacturing butcher knives and



NORTH MAPLE STREET—FROM HOTEL CORNER.

screw drivers. Soon after 1832 a machine for making shingles was in use, and a little later a planing machine was set up by a man named Smith, from Hardwick. Previous to the time when Mr. Jewett built his shop on the Oil Mill road he used this machine shop for turning bobbins. Asher Shepherd lived in the Polly Bosworth house for a few years after 1832.

Esquire Thompson lived here till 1835, when he sold his farm to Samuel Whitmarsh and moved to Peoria, Ill., where his strong Democratic convictions soon brought him into prominence, and he was the party candidate for governor or lieutenant-governor of that state. The purchase by Whitmarsh of the Thompson property marks the beginning of a new era in the life of the little settlement called the "Warner District."

CHAPTER VII.

MULBERRY FEVER AND SILK ENTERPRISE.

EARLY BIOGRAPHY OF SAMUEL WHITMARSH.—THE NORTHAMPTON SILK COMPANY.—LATER ENTERPRISES OF MR. WHITMARSH.—DAVID LEE AND LYDIA MARIA CHILD.—JOSIAH GILBERT HOLLAND.

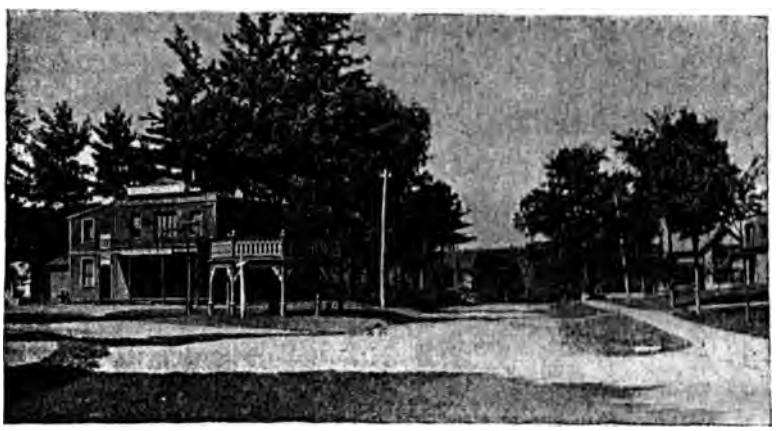
FOR several years following 1835, Northampton was the center of an excitement which, of its kind, is believed to have been without a parallel in the country. It was similar in some respects to the great oil speculation in Pennsylvania a few years ago. To follow the course of events leading up to the time when Florence took an active interest in the rage, let us turn back a few years and observe the movements of one of the leaders of this excitement.



SAMUEL WHITMARSH.

Samuel Whitmarsh was born in Boston, November, 1800. By the death of his father, he was thrown upon his own resources in early life, and was apprenticed to a bookbinder. After serving his time, in connection with his brother Thomas he engaged in the dry goods business in his native town. Soon they went to New York, where they continued to deal in dry goods and added to their business a line of men's furnishing goods. This new departure soon led them into the merchant tailoring business. Mr. Whitmarsh thought that if he could furnish a superior article the better class of people, heretofore "custom-made" men, would give him their trade. He was not mistaken and soon the business proved very successful. In 1829, having accumulated a comfortable property, he came to Northampton and purchased of Major William Parsons, of South street, the

Fort hill property, embracing substantially the lands now owned by Mr. E. H. R. Lyman. On the high ground where Mr. Lyman's house now stands he erected a commodious residence, later extensively remodeled and enlarged by Mr. Jacob Singmaster and Mr. Lyman. Mr. Whitmarsh set to work at once to beautify his place. He laid out the grounds, built



JUNCTION PARK AND MEADOW STREET.

walks, driveways, and terraces, set out shrubbery and trees, erected a large greenhouse, made a beautiful garden, and from the wild pasture and plowlands brought forth one of the most beautiful places in the Connecticut valley. He had taste and talent for landscape gardening, and did much for Northampton in this line.

In some way he became interested in raw silk, and thought that its production might be successfully carried on in this country. With him, to reach a conclusion was to act upon it. Within one or two years after he built the Fort Hill house, he engaged in the cultivation of the mulberry. He began on a small scale, and gradually added to his collection of trees as his interest in the subject increased. The only variety of mulberry that had been commonly grown in this country was the "white mulberry." He first experimented with this variety, but soon found another and apparently much superior kind, the "morus multicaulis." He introduced this to the few growers and farmers in this region who had caught some of his enthusiasm regarding this new industry.

A few towns in Connecticut were interested in the manufacture of silk, and the tireless and persistent efforts of a few leaders like Mr. Whitmarsh bore fruit in the public press in articles on mulberry tree cultivation and the care of the silkworm. By 1835 he was thoroughly convinced that something should be done on a larger scale than he was able to

prosecute single handed, and he therefore took steps to carry out this idea.

THE NORTHAMPTON SILK COMPANY.—The valuable water privilege in Florence at this time was the property of Esquire Thompson. Mr. Whitmarsh thought this a desirable spot for his pet scheme, as the water privilege and surrounding interval lands in the fertile "Broughton's Meadow" afforded power and territory sufficient for all future demands of the enterprise. By the middle of September he had purchased nearly three hundred acres of land with which to begin operations. He paid Esquire Thompson seven thousand five hundred dollars for his ninety acre farm, which included the sawmill, oil mill, and water privilege; he gave Gaius Burt six thousand dollars for his productive one hundred acre farm in the meadow, and obtained ninety-five acres more from William Clark, Senior. He then went to New York to secure money to push his enterprise. His sanguine hopes and great earnestness soon enlisted a ready response from moneyed men, and before the middle of October he had organized the "Northampton Silk Company," as the name is recorded in all the legal documents, instead of the "New York and Northampton Silk Company," the name given in previous histories. By an act of the Legislature the company was incorporated in the spring.

Among the men interested in the project were Ebenezer Jackson and Samuel Russell of Middletown, Connecticut, Augustus Heard of Boston, Smith W. Anderson, Stephen A. Halsey, Robert Jones, James Bowen, Henry W. Sergeant, John C. Bergh, John W. P. Arcularius, E. W. & F. Tryon, Howard, Kieler & Schofield, Comstock & Andrews, Charles N. S. Rowland, Daniel L. Suydam, Newton Hayes, Christopher S. Hubbard, Charles N. Talbot, Joseph W. Alsop, Junior, Henry H. Casey, Isaac Jones, Eustis Prescott, Charles St. John, and Stephen Crocker, all of New York city.

Ebenezer Jackson was an English weaver. The first board of officers was as follows: Samuel Whitmarsh, president; Talbot, Russell, Hubbard, and Bowen, directors; Charles St. John, treasurer, and William H. Schofield, clerk.

To acquaint himself with the practical details of the contemplated business, Mr. Whitmarsh, before the last of October, had sailed for Europe. He visited the silk growing regions of France, Italy, and Switzerland, and made large purchases in France, so large, in fact, that the *Gazette* says, "The demand for the morus multicaulis is greater than ever. Mr. Whitmarsh's purchases have raised the price of it in that country [France] nearly fifty per cent." Mr. Whitmarsh had a very competent agent in Mr. C. P. Huntington, the editor of the *Gazette*, who made good use of his organ to advertise the business. Mr. Whitmarsh did not return

to Northampton till the first of May (1836), but in March this advertisement appeared in the *Gazette:*—

"FOR SALE.

"50,000 Trees of the Morus Multicaulis, together with a quantity of the GENUINE SEED of the Chinese Mulberry, in papers sufficient for between three and four thousand plants each."

The seed sold for five dollars a paper, but, notwithstanding the high price, inside of a week orders for two hundred dollars worth had been received. The trees arrived the middle of May, and those three feet long were sold at from thirty to thirty-five cents apiece by the hundred.



OLD SILK MILL BOARDING HOUSE. VIEW NEAR THE DAM. LILLY PLACE.

The work now began in good earnest. The company decided to stock one hundred acres with engrafted trees that year. A crop of corn had been raised on the land the year before, this being regarded as a necessary preparation of the soil for the cultivation of the mulberry. Mr. William Clark was given the crop for the labor of growing it, and he was now employed to set out the trees. All the land between Park street and the river, fifteen acres in Ross Meadow, and the hillside south of Pine street were covered with cuttings of the multicaulis and the Chinese varieties. The European imported trees were not replanted,

but were cut into slips about six inches long, and then set in the earth. The growth was vigorous, and in the fall the tops of the plants were cut off, and set the ensuing spring.

On the eighth of June the company met and re-elected the first board of officers. Success seemed to look them in the face. The quiet hamlet—"the Warner District"—must have presented a busy appearance that summer. By the last of June "machines from Europe, and of domestic construction," had arrived, for reeling and weaving silk, and by the first of August the old oil mill was being made ready for the machinery with which to manufacture sewing silk.

It is probable that this season Mr. Whitmarsh built his large cocoonery on the Fort Hill estate. It was two hundred feet long, twenty-six feet wide, and two stories high, and accommodated two million worms. The company this year had no raw silk of their own production. During the early fall a committee from Congress came to Northampton to examine the company's plantation. Daniel Webster, Abbott Lawrence, and James K. Mills, then famous for their advocacy of the doctrine of protection to American industries, made up this committee.

September 13, 1833, the company bought of Jennette N. Ridgeway the "wool warehouse," built by James Shepherd, that stood near Paul Strong's tavern, and Mr. Ashley of West Springfield and a gang of men moved it across lots to a spot nearly opposite the old oil mill, where it stands to this day. This afterwards became the "old silk mill boarding house." Some machinery was put into this building, and samples of plain and figured satins were woven here. These Mr. Whitmarsh took to Washington and presented to Henry Clay, who was much gratified with them as specimens of home manufactures.

The fall months were uneventful ones, and the excitement cooled with the weather. The opening of the new year (1837) found the company manufacturing sewing silk, and according to the papers it was "used by all the tailors in town." "Northampton sewing silk" sold well in New York, and the *Gazette* said: "The company are manufacturing at the rate of two hundred dollars worth per day and yet cannot supply the demand." In May Mr. Whitmarsh imported from Europe fifteen thousand dollars worth of mulberry trees, but owing to poor packing lost a large quantity of them. More land on the meadows and upland was set with trees this season, making about one hundred acres in all. The Alpine variety was introduced but was not as popular as the multicaulis. The company built this year a substantial brick factory, on a stone foundation, one hundred and twenty by forty feet, and four stories high. This building is now the Braid Mill. The canal was dug from the dam to the factory, and the machinery in the oil mill

transferred to the large building. A small house was built at the foot of the hill, at the junction of what is now Maple and Nonotuck streets. This was occupied by Mr. Benson in Community times, and some years ago was moved to the corner of River road and Landy avenue.

Not content with the amount of land already theirs, on June first the company bought twenty acres of Allen Clark, and in September paid Luther C. Clark two thousand dollars for one hundred acres additional. Their estate now embraced the whole of the southern and western portion of the present village.

The spring of 1838 witnessed no abatement of the mulberry craze, but the silk company was short of funds. Although they claimed a capital of $100,000, with liberty to extend to $150,000, it appears that only about $60,000 had been subscribed. At a meeting held the first of June, they voted to raise $30,000 immediately, in order to pursue their operations with increased vigor. In June a machine for making watch and other narrow ribbons was put in operation, being "a new application of machinery" as the papers stated. During the fall of 1838 the excitement ran high. The discussions in the newspapers, and the accounts of sales recently made at large profits, had been too much for even the staid old farmers, and every one rushed into the business, many without any knowledge of it. Small plants were sold for fabulous prices, some even for nearly their weight in gold, and there was hardly a garden in Northampton but rejoiced in these treasures. The fever had spread until it embraced all parts of New England where the mulberry could be grown. Trees sold at one, two, and three dollars apiece. Later, so valuable were they considered that cuttings a few inches in length sold for between two and three dollars per bud, and hothouses were pressed into service to supply the demand, the ordinary course of nature being too slow for the dealers.



FACTORY.—AFTERWARDS "COMMUNITY BOARDING HOUSE."

In the following spring Mr. Whitmarsh published a neat little book, of one hundred and fifty pages, on "Eight Years' Experience and Observation in the Culture of the Mulberry Tree, and in the Care of the Silk-

worm." It was printed in Northampton, and, as all previous works on this subject had been reprints from foreign authors, not at all applicable to the "American system," it met with a ready sale. His great earnestness and evidently sincere convictions regarding the prosperous future of the new industry permeate the entire volume. The book treats of every detail of the business and, fifty years after the failure of the enterprise, it furnishes interesting reading.

L. P. Brockett, M.D., was in Northampton in the spring of 1839, and says that Mr. Whitmarsh and Dr. Daniel Stebbins were rejoicing over the purchase of a dozen multicaulis cuttings, not more than two feet long and of the thickness of a pipe-stem, for twenty-five dollars. "They are worth sixty dollars," exclaimed the Doctor in his enthusiasm.

On the first of May, pursuant to the state law, the company gave notice that the amount of all assessment voted and actually paid was $94,450, and that all existing debts were $48,494.18. Some silk vesting was woven this year. The first superintendent, Thomas W. Shepherd, had left, and Mr. Whitmarsh went to Mansfield, Conn., and, on August 9, hired Mr. Joseph Conant to take charge of the business. Mr. Conant was one of the first silk manufacturers in the United States, having made silk as early as 1829. He was a man of character and of great ability. Earle Dwight Swift and Orwell S. Chaffee came to Northampton with Mr. Conant. Mr. Whitmarsh soon severed his connection with the company, bought a building in Northampton, later called the "Hive," and began alone the manufacture of silk.



CAPTAIN JOSEPH C. CONANT.

The mulberry bubble, now blown to immense proportions by the breath of the speculators, could stand the strain no longer, and without a word of warning burst, bringing ruin to thousands. The company began to realize that making silk was not on the whole an easy task; the machinery was rude, and little was accomplished. On March 18, 1840, the *Gazette* printed a notice, "Property of the Northampton Silk Company For Sale." On April 9, the stockholders appointed Talbot, Alsop, Jr., and Casey, trustees, with directions to sell or lease the property, and, on May 1, they rented the estate to Joseph Conant, for a term

of three years if desired, for one thousand dollars a year, said Conant to have the leaves of the mulberry plants on said premises." This lease was not satisfactory, for the next year, on the first of April, the estate was sold at auction with the figures standing at $22,250. It appears that the trustees above named were the purchasers. Mr. Conant remained as lessee till September 14, 1841, when the property was bought by the leaders of the future "Community."

LATER ENTERPRISES OF MR. WHITMARSH.

After leaving the Northampton Silk Company, Mr. Whitmarsh had not proceeded far in his new project at the "Hive" when he went to Jamaica, led there by a reward offered by the government for the successful establishment of the culture of silk on that island. After a visit there of several months, he formed a company with a capital of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars, one half of which was taken by capitalists there, and the other half was assigned to him. He went to London and disposed of his stock at par value.

At this time Mr. Whitmarsh displayed one of the noblest traits of his character. Having thus come into the possession of ample pecuniary means, he returned to Northampton and paid off his old debts in full, with interest, amounting to about seventy-five thousand dollars. He then collected a company of thirty-five men and women, bought horses, machinery, implements, etc., chartered the vessel "Saxon," and on the sixteenth of November, 1840, sailed from Charlestown for Jamaica. They cleared one hundred acres and set twenty acres with mulberry trees; and erected a blacksmith shop, cocoonery, and a saw and shingle mill. After a visit to this country Mr. Whitmarsh returned to Jamaica only to find that one of the directors of the company, a lawyer by profession, had had some difficulty with the owners of an icehouse in which the silkworm eggs had been placed, and had removed them to a cellar, the dampness of which had spoiled them. This was a great blow to the enterprise, and in 1846 Mr. Whitmarsh loaded a small vessel with tropical plants, and, accompanied by his family of thirty American workmen, sailed for Boston, with a view of opening a botanical garden there, the ship and cargo being all that was left of a large property. The proposition, not meeting with success in Boston, was abandoned. His next scheme was a steam furnace, and then a kind of belting, but both proved failures, after sinking thousands of dollars in trying to develop them.

Mr. Whitmarsh was one of the most unobtrusive of men. His manner was always quiet, his habits of life correct, and his aim was to do justly and love mercy. The distinguishing trait in his character was his wonderful hopefulness. He was never discouraged. Though failure after

failure overtook him, he was still confident that the next revolution of fortune's wheel would bring him ample recompense for all his labors and losses. He was no hypocrite and never sought to take advantage of others. He possessed an extensive knowledge of men, and was a man of unusual intelligence. If he lacked that practical quality which men who achieve greater pecuniary advancement so often possess, he certainly deserves the credit of sowing the seed from which sprang the present industries of Florence, for his "Northampton Silk Company" led the way for the Community, and the Community was the real beginning of the present village of Florence. Mr. Whitmarsh died in Northampton, April 21, 1875.

DAVID LEE AND LYDIA MARIA CHILD.

Before closing this chapter mention should be made of two families afterwards noted in the literary world, who at this time were residents of Florence. While the mulberry fever was raging, another enterprise was also being discussed, namely, the making of sugar from beets. Mr. Child had been in France, where the culture of the beet for this purpose was quite extensive, and, on returning in the spring of 1838, he came to Northampton, determined to make sugar from beet roots. The first year he cultivated a few acres, and in 1840 he invented a "beet cutter" and an improved process for obtaining the sugar. Soon after he bought a farm on the road to Easthampton, near the peat swamps, and here Mrs. Child wrote some of her works. Mr. Child had twenty acres of sugar beets planted at the "Silk Factory Farm," and some machinery was put in the oil mill. Another of his schemes was to press peat that it might be used for fuel. Although he spent considerable money on both these enterprises, neither proved successful, and about 1847 Mr. Child moved from town.



CHILD PLACE ON EASTHAMPTON ROAD.

Mrs. Child was not pleased with this region. In her "Letters" she says: "I have never been so discouraged about abolition as since we came into this iron bound valley of the Connecticut." And again: "If I were to choose my home, I certainly would not place it in the valley of the Connecticut. It is true, the river is broad and clear, the hills majestic, and the whole aspect of outward nature most lordly. But, oh! the narrowness, the bigotry of man!" At this time the influence of Jonathan Edwards was still felt, and the old time theological spirit had not been supplanted by the broader religious toleration of to-day.

DR. JOSIAH GILBERT HOLLAND.

At about this time (1835–42) this well known author was a resident of Florence. Soon after 1836 his father, Harrison Holland, moved from Granby to Northampton, and seems to have been employed in the silk mill. Josiah was then twenty-three years old. He did not long remain here, for in 1841 he purchased a "daguerreotype apparatus," and had rooms at the "canal building" in the center, where he "executed miniature likenesses by this interesting process." In 1843 he taught writing, having his schoolroom at the *Gazette* office. According to his advertisement "All pupils are required to furnish their own lights."

Harrison Holland spent several years in Florence, living in at least three different houses. His first home, as far as ascertained, was in one of the small houses west of the present Brush Factory bridge, on the road to West Farms. For several years he lived in the William Warner (Polly Bosworth) house, and then in the Paul Strong tavern. While living in the latter house two of his daughters died, Clarissa, February 24, and Lucretia B., July 13, 1842. Later the father moved to the small cottage built by Jewett, that stands back of Leonard's Silk Mill boarding house; his son Harvey at this time having an interest in these mills. Harvey built and lived in the house opposite the mill, which was remodeled a few years ago by the late Mr. John N. Leonard. Harrison Holland died in December, 1848, aged sixty-four. His inventive turn of mind made him a thorough machinist, but he was unfortunate in his dealings with men and never realized any reward for the machines he invented.



JEWETT PLACE—WHERE THE HOLLANDS LIVED.



VIEW SOUTHEAST FROM STRAWBERRY HILL.

CHAPTER VIII.

NORTHAMPTON ASSOCIATION OF EDUCATION AND INDUSTRY.

THE SPIRIT OF THE TIMES.—THE TRANSCENDENTAL MOVEMENT.—KINDRED ASSOCIATIONS, BROOK FARM AND HOPEDALE.—THE PROJECTORS OF THE NORTHAMPTON ASSOCIATION.—WHY FLORENCE WAS SELECTED AS THE SITE OF THE NEW VENTURE.—THE LEADERS BUY THE SILK COMPANY'S PROPERTY.—THE PRELIMINARY CIRCULAR.—ORGANIZATION.—CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS.—ITEMS FROM THE SECRETARY'S BOOK.

A FEW months of peace and quiet followed the crisis of the mulberry fever and the failure of the silk company. The inhabitants of this little hamlet were content to till their farms without indulging in speculative ventures, and therefore they inwardly rejoiced when the silk company's project was abandoned. This feeling of satisfaction was not of long duration, however, for soon a number of people, with peculiar ideas, bought the silk company's estate and came to Florence determined to establish a new social order, in accordance with the most advanced ideas of the time. Social innovations are always regarded with disfavor until they have justified themselves, and these earnest men and women encountered many obstacles in their effort to advance the cause of the "brotherhood of man."

Before proceeding to study the new institution, which its founders named the "Northampton Association of Education and Industry," let us consider briefly the spirit of the times that prompted this experiment. The years just preceding the beginning of their undertaking had been years of active agitation on the part of the socialists. Projects of radical social reform filled the air. In the words of John Morley: "A great wave of humanity, of benevolence, of desire for improvement,—a great wave of social sentiment, in short,—poured itself among all who had the faculty of large and disinterested thinking." Among the men who were representatives of the vital movement in the direction of spiritual

supernaturalism may be mentioned Dr. Pusey and Dr. Newman. The Church of England was the target for the criticism of Thomas Arnold and F. D. Maurice, who were trying to broaden it so that "it might embrace heaven and earth, faith and philosophy, creed and criticism." Carlyle's voice was heard above the uproar, crying against shams in religion and politics. But these were not the only ones who were clamoring for a better state of society. Dickens in his novels was vividly portraying the wrongs of the established order; Kingsley was "stirring the caldron of social discontent"; while George Combe, Cobden, John Bright, and Daniel O'Connell gave their energies to the cause of progress. The teachings of Robert Owen were everywhere discussed. Not England and France alone, but all Europe was invaded by this spirit of reform. In speaking of the twenty years following 1820 Emerson says: "It seemed a war between intellect and affection; a crack in nature, which split every church in Christendom into Papal and Protestant; Calvinism into Old and New Schools; Quakerism into Old and New; brought new divisions in politics; as the new conscience touching temperance and slavery."

The influence exerted by this great movement for reform was felt in the United States, and the Americans, with less reverence for old customs and precedents than the English, soon struck out on unbroken ground and resolved to put to a practical test the principles and theories of these reformers. Owen's scheme known as the "New Harmony Settlement" may be said to have reached its greatest popularity in 1826. Before 1842, through the indefatigable zeal of Albert Brisbane and Horace Greeley, the writings of Fourier were interpreted to this country. Eleven experiments followed Owen's, and no less than thirty-four were started from the influence exerted by Fourier's teachings. Noyes, in his "History of American Socialisms," says that of these forty-five Communities or Phalanxes, "the majority perished within a year or two of their formation; many of them did not last more than a few months, and only three survived for a period exceeding five years."

The Northampton Association of Education and Industry seems to have had its origin in the movement known as "transcendentalism," which sprang up soon after 1836, and enlisted in its interest a company of gifted men and women, among whom were Margaret Fuller, George Ripley, Samuel Robbins, John S. Dwight, Warren Burton, Dr. Convers Francis, Theodore Parker, Rev. Adin Ballou, Dr. Hedge, Orestes Augustus Brownson, James Freeman Clark, and William H. Channing. From the informal afternoon meetings which these friends of progress held at one another's houses in Boston, where social topics were discussed, grew the more serious thought, which led to the forming of an association.

There was some difficulty in securing an agreement on principles upon which to lay a foundation. Mr. Ballou believed that success could only be obtained by an avowal of convictions on the part of those uniting, while Mr. Ripley wished to avoid the least appearance of coercion, and to rely wholly on the fraternal spirit to bind the members together. In consequence of this difference of opinion a friendly separation took place; Mr. Ballou and a band of practical reformers established themselves at Hopedale, Worcester county, Massachusetts, where they founded the "Hopedale Community," while Mr. Ripley and his friends in the spring of 1841 proceeded to West Roxbury, where they organized the "Brook Farm Institute of Agriculture and Education." Margaret Fuller, Hawthorne, Charles Anderson Dana, and others were there, and, as they afterwards became famous in the literary world, Brook Farm is perhaps the most widely known of the contemporary associations.



DAVID MACK.

While these leaders of thought in Boston were busy discussing transcendentalism and the prospects of forming associations, there were others who were equally on the alert to receive, weigh, and consider the ideas advanced at their meetings. Among these were William Adam, David Mack, George W. Benson, and Samuel L. Hill. Mr. Adam was a native of Edinburgh, Scotland, and a graduate of its famous University. At this time he was professor of Oriental languages at Harvard University, and living so near Boston naturally felt the influence of the transcendental movement. David Mack was born in Middlefield, Mass., in 1803. Like Mr. Adam he was at this time in Cambridge, having only a few years previous opened a day and boarding school for young ladies in that town. He was so impressed with the spirit of reform that, when Brook Farm was started in the spring of 1841, he became an associate member. Mr. Benson was from Brooklyn, Connecticut. Before his father's death he was engaged in the wholesale leather business, and just before coming to Northampton was in charge of two farms, one in Brooklyn and one in Providence. William Lloyd Garrison had married Mr. Benson's sister, and this union naturally brought Mr. Benson in touch with the more advanced thinkers of the time. Samuel L. Hill was

an overseer in a Willimantic cotton factory, and had kept pace with the world's thought through contact with Garrison's *Liberator* and correspondence with the Boston transcendentalists. It is not known which of these four men was the first to broach the subject of starting a Community. They had been in correspondence with one another previous to the spring of 1841.

In all probability the failure of the silk company first brought Northampton to the notice of the four leaders. Whitmarsh's silk enterprise had been the subject of many an article in the New England newspapers, and when the property was advertised for sale it was natural that it should suggest an excellent opportunity to obtain for a very small sum a valuable property, well suited to the needs of the project. Mr. Hill had known Mr. Conant while the latter was in Mansfield (Mr. Conant was related to Mr. Hill by marriage) and it is evident that Mr. Hill was the prime mover in selecting Florence as the site for the experiment. It seems that the plans for organization had been matured before the spring of 1841, for at this time Mr. Hill moved from Willimantic and took up his residence in "Broughton's Meadows." During the summer it is presumed that Messrs. Benson, Adam, and Mack visited Florence to look over the ground and to consult Mr. Conant, who had a lease of the silk property, with reference to his joining the proposed association and giving it his support.



GEORGE W. BENSON.
From daguerreotype taken about 1845.

On the 14th of September, 1841, the trustees of the defunct Northampton Silk Company, for twenty thousand dollars, sold the estate to Joseph Conant of Northampton, Samuel L. Hill of Windham (Willimantic), Connecticut, William Coe and George W. Benson, both of Brooklyn, Connecticut.

The next step was to draw up the declaration of principles and articles of association, which was probably done by Prof. Adam and David Mack, and on the fifteenth of February, 1842, the following preliminary circular, stating the object and aim of the proposed association, was sent out. It was printed on two sides of an eight by ten inch sheet, and space was left at the close for the names of subscribers for shares in the stock company.

PRELIMINARY CIRCULAR.

When existing institutions are found inadequate to promote the further progress of society, it becomes the duty of those who perceive the necessity of reform, to associate together upon principles, in their opinion, the best calculated to fulfill the designs of God in placing man in this life. Among those designs are believed to be the progressive culture and high development of all the powers and faculties of our nature; the union of spiritual, intellectual, and practical attainments; the equality of rights and rank for all, except that those stations and pursuits should be regarded as most honorable which promote self-conquest and the most expansive philanthropy; and the practical recognition of the responsibility of every individual to God alone in all his pursuits. These designs of God demand the co-operation of man as an essential condition, but existing institutions of education and business do not afford it, inasmuch as they fail to provide for the full development of the faculties of any class or individual; recognize invidious distinctions, assigning the highest rank for other reasons than moral worth; establish separate and conflicting action for various kinds and degrees of culture, skill, and labor; forbid such freedom of thinking and acting as is required by personal accountability; sever intellectual culture from action in such a manner as to make it barren and even subversive of moral principle; and separate labor from speculative pursuits so as to make it drudgery, thus causing the degradation of a necessary means of education, health, and happiness. The following Articles of Association are proposed, as a means of reducing to practice the foregoing principles:—



ARTICLE I. The name and style of this association shall be The Northampton Association of Education and Industry.

ART. II. The management of the affairs and undertakings of this Association shall be conducted by two distinct companies: 1st, a Stock Company; 2d, an Industrial Association.

ART. III. The Stock Company shall be first formed by obtaining a subscription of $100,000, to be paid in money or some equivalent at the option of the Stock Directors. As soon as $50,000 are secured by binding subscriptions, $30,000 of which, at least, shall be paid by the first of April next, the company shall be organized by choosing a President, Secretary and Treasurer, who together shall, as Trustees, hold all the property of the Association in trust, until their successors shall be appointed by the Company.

ART. IV. The President and Secretary shall sign all contracts and papers binding the Company, and the Treasurer shall give security to the satisfaction of the Company for the safe keeping of its money and papers; but the Trustees shall not have power to buy or sell, as agents of the Company, on credit.

ART. V. The Secretary shall keep a book in which copies of all the shares shall be entered, with the names of their owners, and all interest and dividends due thereon. No transfer of stock shall be valid unless indorsed by the President and Secretary; and a copy of every transfer shall be entered on the Secre-

tary's book. But no transfer shall be authorized for any person indebted to the Association until security be given for the payment of his debt.

ART. VI. The Secretary shall keep account of all the property, contracts and obligations of the Company, and of the obligations and money transactions of each member with the Company; and at suitable times those accounts may be inspected by any member of the Company.

ART. VII. The Secretary shall make annually an inventory of all the property of the Association, an adjusted statement of its pecuniary condition, and a full settlement of its transactions with other parties and with each member of the Company; so that at the beginning of each year new accounts may be opened.

ART. VIII. New stock may be raised at any time and to any amount determined by a vote of two-thirds of the stockholders.



MEADOW STREET BRIDGE IN WINTER.

ART. IX. Shares shall be for $100 each, negotiable under the restrictions of the fifth Article, and shall be entitled to annual interest not exceeding six per cent.; but interest shall not be payable under four years, when the annual interest and the interest for the four years then due may be paid, or the arrears may be equally divided between the next four years, at the option of the Company.

ART. X. Interest or dividends of profits may be paid in stock or in cash, at the option of the stockholder; but the Company shall not be obliged to pay cash, unless previous notice be given to the Secretary thirty days before the payment becomes due.

ART. XI. In settling with individual members, each shall be charged with rent of apartments furnished by the Stock Company at a reasonable rate, and with supplies furnished by the Association at cost.

ART. XII. In stock transactions, every share shall be entitled to one vote, provided that no one proprietor shall be entitled to more than ten votes. In the absence of stockholders, their shares may be represented by proxies.

ART. XIII. Every certificate of stock shall contain a condition providing that shares owned by persons not members of the Industrial Association may be bought

n, upon payment of principal and interest, by members of the Association, when notice of such intention shall be given thirty days before the annual interest becomes due.

ART. XIV. In making the annual settlement, the disbursements shall be made in the following order: 1st, expenses of stock transactions and management, including labor; 2d, expenses of supporting members of the Industrial Association unable to earn a support, the property of such members in the stock account being first applied as far as it will go; 3d, six per cent. on all stock actually paid in. The balance shall be divided among the members of the Industrial Association in proportion to their several services in labor and talent or skill, to be estimated by the books and reports of the Leaders of Divisions and Subdivisions, two-thirds of said balance being awarded to labor, and one-third to skill.

ART. XV. The Stock Directors shall determine in what manner their funds shall be invested, and shall make such appropriations for carrying on the different branches of business as they shall judge best, those branches being most favored that are necessary and less attractive. They may always attend the meetings of the Board of Directors of the Industrial Association and give their advice, but shall not be allowed to vote.

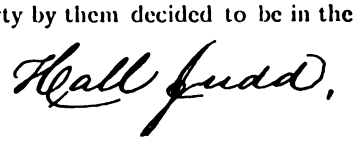
ART. XVI. Any member expelled or choosing to withdraw, shall receive all that is his due on the stock account, at the next annual settlement, if he give ninety days' previous notice, and before receiving the same shall sign a full discharge of all claims against the Company or the Association.

ART. XVII. The Stock Company when duly organized shall elect twenty families to commence the Industrial Association. Those twenty families, together with such families and individuals as shall be admitted members, shall elect all subsequent members, and may expel an unworthy member.

ART. XVIII. The Industrial Association shall be organized by choosing a Director for each branch of employment established by the Association, with the advice of the Stock Trustees. Such Directors shall form a Board, who shall see that suitable employment for all the members shall always be provided; shall be arbitrators to settle all difficulties between the Divisions or Subdivisions, or between individuals, at the expense of the party by them decided to be in the



Autograph written Oct. 15, 1843.



Autograph written March 21, 1846.

wrong, such expense being only the value of time, rooms, etc., caused by the arbitration; and shall fix the rate of compensation for the various employments and ages, awarding higher compensation to the most necessary and disagreeable rather than to the most productive. They shall manage the purchase of materials and goods for the Association and for individuals, and the sale of articles produced or manufactured by the Association, but they shall never buy or sell on credit.

ART. XIX. Each branch of employment shall be prosecuted by such as

choose it, who shall form a class, consisting of as many Divisions as the Directors shall determine; each Division shall choose a Leader who shall determine the number of Subdivisions; and each Subdivision shall choose its Leader, who shall keep an account of the labor and skill of each member of his Subdivision at each time of meeting, and shall report the progress of his undertaking to the Board of Directors annually and as often as necessary. All the Leaders of Subdivisions shall form a Committee for consultation concerning the best ways and means of managing the business of their Division.



"Where sprawling frogs, in loveless key,
Sing on and on incessantly."
—*James Whitcomb Riley.*

ART. XX. Each Subdivision shall determine the manner in which their employment shall be performed, shall assign different portions to individuals according to their qualifications, and shall admit new members, who may be qualified, upon their application.

ART. XXI. Each Subdivision shall, as far as practicable, consist of different sexes and ages, so that the heavier parts may be performed by the stronger; the lighter, by the more delicate individuals.

ART. XXII. No charge shall be made to any member of the Association or his family for religious or other instruction, for medical attendance or nursing by members of the Association, or for the use of baths, public rooms, or whatever is provided for the general use and benefit, unless used for some private or particular purpose.

ART. XXIII. Every man, woman, and child above the age of five years shall have a separate account with the Association, and shall have a separate and distinct interest. The expenses and the compensation of children shall be so arranged that the profits of their industry shall refund the cost of their support, by the time they become admissible as members of the Association.

ART. XXIV. This Association and any of its Boards or Committees may establish such By-laws not inconsistent with the spirit and intention of this Declaration and of these Articles, as they may think proper, from time to time.

ART. XXV. Any of these Articles may be altered at a regular meeting of the Association, by a majority of two-thirds of the members; provided notice of the proposed alteration shall be given in the manner to be prescribed in the By-laws.

BROUGHTON MEADOWS, NORTHAMPTON, February 15, 1842.

At a meeting of the owners of the property known as the Northampton Silk Factory Estate, held this 15th day of February, 1842, Joseph Conant was voted President, and William Adam, Secretary. Whereupon, it was unanimously

Resolved, That, approving of the principles and objects developed in the preceding Declaration and Articles of Association, we, the owners of the aforesaid Estate, consisting of about four hundred and twenty acres of land; six dwelling houses; a large brick factory, nearly new, four stories high, measuring one hundred and twenty by forty feet, with water-wheel, gear, and shafting fit for operation, and situated on a durable stream of water called Mill River, having from twenty-seven to twenty-nine feet fall; a dye-house, with necessary apparatus; a wooden building about thirty feet square, formerly used for manufacturing purposes, with water-wheel, in good condition; a saw-mill; a Raymond's shingle mill, with patent right secured for the town of Northampton, capable of cutting ten thousand shingles per hour; a planing machine for planing and jointing boards, planks, and timber; turning lathes, circular saws, &c., &c., together with machinery in the factory adapted to the manufacture of silk, and sundry other articles of personal property: also a lot of pine timber, containing about fifty acres, about a mile and a half from the saw-mill: — the whole estimated to be worth about thirty thousand dollars,— are willing and ready to place it at the disposal of the projected Northampton Association of Education and Industry, at a fair valuation, whenever fifty thousand dollars of stock shall be subscribed, and thirty thousand dollars paid up, as specified in the Articles already referred to.

[Signed]

W. Adam. Joseph Conant

Secretary. *President.*

In conformity to the preceding Declaration of Sentiments and Articles of Association, and in consideration of the foregoing proceedings of the proprietors of the Northampton Silk Company Estate, We, the undersigned, do severally subscribe to the Stock Company therein set forth the number of shares set against our names, the amount of which we promise to pay as herein specified to the Treasurer of said Company; the said Stock property to be forever holden and managed in all respects according to the principles and provisions of the aforesaid Declaration and Articles.

ORGANIZATION.—The circular had the desired effect, awakening an active interest in the new venture especially in this neighborhood, and by the first of April the amount of stock set forth in the circular as necessary for organization had been subscribed. The charter members were the four leaders, Adam, Benson, Mack, and Hill, together with Joseph Conant; Samuel Brooks from Hadley, Samuel Bottum from

Mansfield, Connecticut, Erasmus D. Hudson from Bloomfield, Connecticut, Hall Judd from Northampton, Theodore Scarborough from Brooklyn, Connecticut, Earle Dwight Swift and Hiram Wells from Mansfield, Connecticut. The first item in the "Journal of the Northampton Association of Education and Industry" is :—

At a meeting held in Broughton's Meadows, Northampton, Mass., this eighth of April (Friday), 1842, present Joseph Conant, Erasmus D. Hudson, G. W. Benson, Theodore Scarborough, Hiram Wells, E. D. Swift, William Adam. The following preamble, principles, and regulations were read, discussed, and adopted.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS.

It is impossible to survey the present condition of the world, the institutions of society, the general character of mankind, and their prevailing pursuits and tendencies, without perceiving the great evils that afflict humanity, and recognizing many of them as the direct consequences of existing social arrangements.

Life is with some a mere round of frivolous occupations or vicious enjoyments, with most a hard struggle for the bare means of subsistence. The former are exempted from productive labour while they enjoy its fruits: upon the latter it is imposed as a task with unreasonable severity, and with inadequate compensation. The one class is tempted to self-indulgence, pride, and oppression: the other is debased by ignorance and crime, by the conflict of passions and interests, by moral pollution, and by positive want and starvation.



OUT FOR A RIDE.

The governments of the world are systematically warlike in their constitution and spirit, in the measures they adopt, and in the means they employ to establish and support their power and to redress their real and alleged grievances, without regard to truth, justice, or humanity; and political parties are notoriously and characteristically destitute of all principle except the love of place, and the influence and emoluments which it bestows, without consideration for the true advancement of society.

Religion, whose essence is perfect spiritual liberty and universal benevolence, is prostituted into a device for tyrannizing over the minds of men by arraying them into hostile sects, by substituting audible and visible forms for the inward power of truth and goodness, and by rendering the superstitious fear and irresponsible dictation of men paramount to the veneration and authority that belong only to God.

For these evils, viz., extreme ignorance and poverty in immediate juxtaposition with the most insolent licentiousness; adverse and contending interests;

war, slavery, party-corruption, and selfishness; sectarian exclusiveness and spiritual tyranny, society as at present constituted affords no remedy. On the contrary, it has sprung out of these evils, is maintained by them, and has a direct tendency to reproduce them in a constantly increasing progression; and the human mind is driven to the conclusion either that the Infinitely Wise and Benevolent Creator of the world designed to produce a state of things subversive of moral goodness and destructive to human happiness, which is a contradiction in terms; or that man, necessarily imperfect and therefore liable to err,



"LOVERS' LANE"—NORTH END.

has mistaken his path by neglecting the light which Nature and Religion were intended to afford for the attainment of Truth and Righteousness, Purity and Freedom.

No believer in God can doubt that it is not He who has failed in his purpose, but man who has wandered from his true course, and after the perception of this truth and of the insufficiency of existing institutions to correct the manifold evils of society and promote its further progress, it is the duty of all to endeavour to discover and to adopt purer and more salutary principles, and to apply them individually and collectively to the regulation of their conduct in life. The vices of the present form and practices of civilization are so gross and palpable that no apology is required for the honest attempt to escape from them, even although it should not be accompanied with the pretense of peculiar wisdom and virtue and should not be followed by the complete success which is both desirable and attainable. The following principles indicating dangers to be avoided, duties to be performed, and rights to be maintained, are adopted as a bond of union and basis of co-operation:

I. Productive labour is the duty of every human being, and every labourer has the exclusive right of enjoying and disposing of the fruits of his labour.

II. The opportunity of self-improvement in all knowledge is the right of every human being.

III. It is the right of every human being to express the dictates of his conscience on religious and all other subjects, and to worship God under any form or in any manner agreeable to his convictions of duty, not interfering with the equal rights of others.

IV. Fair argument is the only legitimate means of controlling the opinions or belief of another, and no praise or blame, no merit or demerit, no reward or punishment, ought to be awarded for any opinions or belief for which every human being is responsible to God alone.

V. The rights of all are equal without distinction of sex, color, or condition, sect or religion.

VI. The family relation, the relation between husband and wife, and between parents and children, has its foundation and support in the laws of nature and the will of God, in the affections of the heart and the dictates of the understanding. Other and wider relations may be formed for the purposes of social improvement, but none that are inconsistent with this which is sacred and permanent, the root and fountain of all human excellence and happiness.

VII. The combination of individuals and families is an evil or a good according to the objects to which it is directed. To combine for the purpose of inflicting an injury is evil: to combine for the purpose of protecting from injury or conferring a benefit is good. To combine for the purposes of war, aggression, conquest, tyranny, and enslavement is evil; to combine for the purpose of living in peace and amity towards all, and in the exercise of mutual benevolence and friendly offices, is good. To combine for the purpose of spreading speculative doctrines and ceremonial observances, forms of religious worship and discipline is injurious to the welfare of mankind, because belief is constantly changing in every individual mind according to the fresh accessions of light and knowledge which it receives, and because a fixed profession is not and cannot be the true index of a varying belief, and because such combinations, therefore, necessarily tend to produce habits of insincerity, to restrain freedom of thought and expression on the most momentous subjects, to cause the outward show of religion to take the place of its practical and spiritual influences, and to afford an instrument to priests and tyrants to enslave the mind and the body. On the other hand, to combine for the purpose of counteraction, within a greater or less sphere, the causes which have produced ignorance and vice, oppression and crime, bigotry, fanaticism and intolerance; of



LOOKING EAST ON CENTER STREET.

raising labour to its true dignity and giving to it its just rewards; of economizing labour and increasing its productiveness by means of machinery, of co-operation, and of a wise division of the departments of industry; of securing the full enjoyment of liberty in thought, in word, and in action; and of promoting the progressive culture and full development of all the capacities of human nature by the union of spiritual, intellectual and practical attainments, is conducive to the happiness and improvement of the world, promotes the cause of freedom, of truth and of goodness, and according to their means and opportunities is the right, the duty, and the interest of all.



Autograph written March 20, 1845.

Such are the principles and objects of the Northampton Association of Education and Industry, and it is in the full and distinct recognition of their truth and obligation and with the view of applying them in practice that the following regulations are adopted:—

NOTE.—Articles which are the same and practically the same as those in the Preliminary Circular are so marked.—[EDITOR.

I. NAME AND ORGANIZATION.

1. [Same as Article I.]

2. [Contained in Article II.]

3. The Stock Company and the Industrial Community shall be distinct from each other in their organization, in their deliberations, and in their accounts; but the members of each body shall be allowed to inspect the records and accounts both of the Industrial Community and of the Stock Company; and the Stock Directors may attend the meetings of the Industrial Directors, and give their advice, but shall not be allowed to vote, and the Industrial Directors may attend the meetings of the Stock Directors, and give advice, but shall not be allowed to vote.

4. The Association shall be organized by those persons who have paid three-fifths of the amount of stock for which they have subscribed, and they shall choose from their own number a President, Treasurer, and Secretary. Those officers shall be *ex officio* Trustees of all the property of the Association, and members of the Board of Stock Directors and of the Board of Industrial Directors. They shall be chosen annually by a majority of two-thirds of the votes of actual members; every officer of the Stock Company and of the Industrial Community shall be chosen annually by a like majority of each body, respectively; and in all cases the voting shall be by ballot.

5. The President, Treasurer, and Secretary, with four additional members chosen from the Industrial Community, shall constitute a Board for the admission of new members, by a unanimous vote; and two-thirds of the votes of members of the Association at a regular meeting shall be requisite to the expulsion of

a member, the decision to be confirmed by a similar majority at the next regular meeting.

6. [Same as Article XVI.]

II. STOCK COMPANY.

7. The Board of Directors of the Stock Company shall consist of the President, Treasurer, and Secretary of the Association, and of four additional members.

8. The Stock shall be in shares of one hundred dollars each; the Stock subscription shall be open until the subscriptions shall amount to one hundred thousand dollars; and those subscribers only who have paid three-fifths of their subscriptions shall be entitled to vote.

9. Stock may be paid in money or some equivalent, at the option of the Stock Directors; and if a person without any capital shall be deemed eligible as a member of the Association, and shall be desirous of subscribing stock, he shall be permitted to subscribe for one or more shares to be paid from the proceeds of his labour; but he shall not be entitled to vote as a Stockholder or to receive interest or dividends on the sum at his credit, until it shall amount to three-fifths of the Stock which stands in his name.

10. [Contained in Article V.]

11. [Contained in Article IX.]

12. [Same as Article VIII.]

13. Children above the age of five years may hold Stock in their own names, and may be present at the meetings of Stockholders, but they shall not vote until they have attained the full age of sixteen years.

14. [Same as Article X.]

15. [Same as Article XII.]

16. [Same as Article XIII.]

17. [Contained in Article IV.]

18. [Contained in Article VI.]

19. [Same as Article VII.]

20. [Contained in Article XV.]

III. INDUSTRIAL COMMUNITY.

21. The Industrial Community shall be organized by individual members and families uniting to constitute it; by establishing distinct departments of industry; and by electing a Director of each department.

22. Every member of the Industrial Community may devote himself to different departments of industry; and all the members belonging to any one department shall choose from amongst themselves the Director of that department.

23. The Industrial Directors, with the President, Treasurer, and Secretary of the Association, shall form a Board who shall provide suitable employment for all the members, shall fix the rate of compensation for the various employments, awarding the highest compensation to the most necessary and disagreeable, and shall manage the purchase of materials and goods, and the sale of articles produced or manufactured, but after the actual payments of Stock shall amount to

thirty-one thousand, two hundred dollars, they shall have no power, as officers and agents of the Community, to buy or sell on credit.

24. Children above the age of five years may become members, and be present at the meetings of members, and may engage in the industrial pursuits of the Community, and receive compensation for their labour; but they shall not vote until they have attained the full age of sixteen years.

25. The Association shall provide for the members of the Industrial Community and their families, moral, literary, scientific, agricultural, and mechanical instruction, medical attendance, and nursing, baths and public rooms without charge; but every member shall be at liberty to seek and procure for himself and his family other instruction, medical attendance, and nursing, at his own cost.



RIVER BEND IN BAKER'S MEADOW.

26. If labour in kind or in quantity is required which the Industrial Community does not supply, it may be hired for the occasion at the expense of the Association; if the Industrial Directors cannot furnish constant labour to members of the Community, they may labour for others for hire, the proceeds of such labour to be for the benefit of the Association; and if any members shall prefer employment not under the direction of the Industrial Community, they may engage in it, with the consent of the Directors, for the benefit of the Association.

27. [Contained in Article XXIII.]

28. Every member of the Industrial Community shall live on the lands belonging to the Association, and shall be provided with suitable apartments; and in settling with individual members each shall be credited with the value of labour performed, and charged at a reasonable rate with the rent of apartments occupied, and at cost with articles for domestic consumption.

29. In making the annual settlement, the disbursements shall be made in the following order: first, the wages of labour; second, the expense of members of the Industrial Community unable to earn a livelihood by their own labour, including destitute widows and orphans of deceased members, the property of such members in the Stock account being first applied as far as it will go; third, interest on Stock; and fourth, the net balance, if any, shall be divided among the members of the Association, one-half being awarded to labour, one-fourth to skill, and one-fourth to capital.

30. Any matter in dispute shall be decided by arbitration. The two parties concerned shall each select an arbitrator. The two arbitrators thus selected shall choose a third. And the three thus chosen shall constitute a Board of Arbitration, who shall in open court hear the representations and examine the witnesses of both parties, and shall deliver a written decision, conformable to equity and good conscience, which shall be binding without appeal, and shall be placed on record for future reference and guidance. The arbitrators shall be compensated for their time and labour by the Association according to a rate fixed by the Industrial Directors.

31. The litigation in a court of law of any question in dispute between parties belonging to the Association, either instead of having recourse to arbitration or for the purpose of overthrowing a decision pronounced by arbitrators, shall subject the offender to expulsion.

32. The Association may establish By-laws not inconsistent with the spirit and intention of this Constitution.

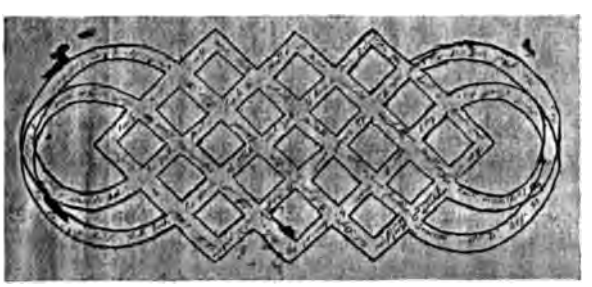
33. [Contained in Article XXV.]

The Meeting then proceeded to organize the Northampton Association of Education and Industry by the choice of a President, Treasurer, and Secretary, when the following persons were elected by ballot, viz., Joseph Conant, President; Samuel L. Hill, Treasurer; William Adam, Secretary.

The following persons were in like manner elected members of the Board for the admission of new members, viz., Hall Judd, Samuel Brooks, G. W. Benson.

The following persons were in like manner elected Directors of the Stock Company, viz.: G. W. Benson, Theodore Scarborough, E. D. Swift, D. Mack.

The meeting closed by appointing a committee of three to provide accommodation for new members. The object and principles upon which the association was founded are set forth at some length in the above Constitution and By-Laws. The Northampton Association like Brook Farm and Hopedale rejected communism as unfavorable to individuality. All three desired honest co-operation. During the first year the Northampton Association in its management differed materially from Brook Farm, inasmuch as the affairs of the association were conducted by two distinct bodies, all financial matters being governed by the holders of the stock, and the "Industrial Community" having absolute control of the departments of industry.



A CURIOSITY—"AN ENDLESS KNOT."

Thus capital and labor were separate, and yet bound together. The Stock Company could attend the meetings and offer advice to the Industrial Community, but could not vote, and *vice versa*.

The second meeting was held the following day, Saturday, April ninth. The stock directors purchased a quantity of raw silk from Mr. Conant, a committee was authorized to purchase ten or twelve cows, one yoke of oxen, six horses, swine, poultry, and some farming implements and supplies; three applications for admission were received; and the Industrial Community appointed E. D. Swift director of the silk department, with instructions to begin operations on the first of May. On April 14 the lumber, agricultural, and mechanical departments were organized, and Samuel Brooks, G. W. Benson, and Joseph Conant, respectively, were appointed directors. It was voted that labor be paid by the hour and that the Constitution be printed. By the last of April, a "Community store" had been fitted up, and nineteen persons (including children) were admitted as members.



OLD SIGNBOARD—"LEFT TO ALBANY, 72 MILES."

The month of May was a busy one for the new association. William Adam was appointed director of the Educational Department, and was instructed to prepare at the expense of the Community a course of lectures on Social Economy, "in illustration of the principles and practices of the association." The Industrial Community appointed a building committee of three members; Mr. Mack was authorized to procure information and report on

the subject of horticulture, with a view of establishing such a department. Oliver D. Paine was made director of the department for the feeding of silkworms and the manufacture of raw silk.

During this month the brick building (later known as the Greenville Cotton Factory) was fitted up and the "factory boarding house" established. In the basement was the laundry; on the floor above or second story, besides two rooms given to silk manufacturing, was a room fitted up with "bunks" in which several men slept. On the third floor at one end was the kitchen and long dining room, and at the other end were several sleeping rooms. The "finishing room," where the silk was skeined and packed, and the "Community store" were on this floor also. The fourth story was divided into sitting and sleeping rooms for families and single persons. All the partitions were of plain boards. Mr. and Mrs. Hiram Wells were appointed to take charge of the new department, and they were instructed to entertain only such boarders as the stock directors might sanction. All supplies were obtained at the Community store.



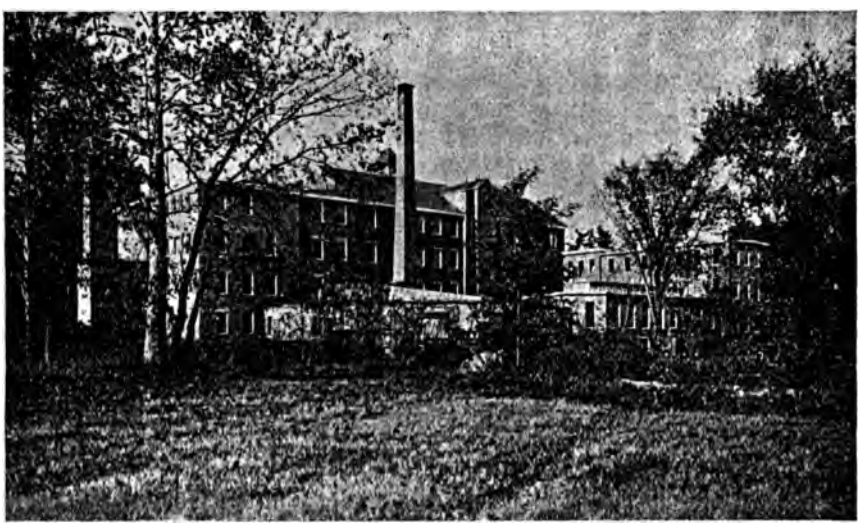
BRAID MILL—FORMERLY THE COMMUNITY BOARDING HOUSE.

The stock directors saw the need of some changes in the constitution and therefore adopted four amendments. One stated that any officer of the association or either department could be removed by a two thirds vote of the body appointing him. Another provided for an annual meeting to be held in January, and that no stockholder could vote who failed to pay his assessments on stock subscribed. The fourth provided for the dissolution of the association and read as follows:—

"The Trustees with the concurrence of the Stock Directors shall have the right to sell and convey in fee simple or for other less estate any or all of the real or personal property * * * on such terms as they shall think proper * * * and thereupon they shall as may be voted by the Stock Directors either re-invest the proceeds of such sale, or employ them in carrying on or extending the Industrial pursuits of the community, or after discharging all claims against the association divide the proceeds or any part thereof amongst the stockholders in proportion to the amount of stock which they have respectively paid in."

This declaration of trust and the other important parts of the constitution were prepared by E. G. Loring of Boston, and duly examined by Mr. Charles Forbes* of Northampton, "both gentlemen of legal eminence." Nineteen names were added to the membership list, a majority being children.

In the month of June benches were placed in the mechanical department, and slates, books, etc., were purchased for the "infant school"; a "Daily Express between Broughton Meadows and the village of Northampton" was established, and Mr. Hall Judd was to be credited two



REAR VIEW OF BRAID MILL—ORIGINAL COMMUNITY BUILDING IS SHOWN IN CENTER.

hours a day, and more if necessary, to attend to this duty. Members who employed his services were charged on the following scale: "One cent per letter, one-half a cent per newspaper, two cents for an errand or message or small purchase, and six cents for any commission or business in which the use of a wagon is required." Implements of husbandry to the amount of $1,576 were purchased; the question of remuneration of labor was left to be determined by the directors at the end of the year with reference "to the actual nature, usefulness and value of the labor performed by each member"; and the following rules governing the boarding house were adopted :—

"1st. All the boarders are required to retire to their sleeping apartments for the night at one half past nine o'clock, and to extinguish their lights at ten o'clock.

* Donor of Forbes Library.

"2d. It is left exclusively to the discretion and judgment of the superintendents of the Boarding House to make provision for the table and generally for the comfort and convenience of the boarders, and in the event of any dissatisfaction of the boarders they are requested to first make known their wishes to the superintendents, and, finally, if necessary, to the Board of Industrial Directors.

"3d. Washing is included in 'Board and lodgings' to be furnished by the Association, but should any boarder appear at the end of the year to have occasioned disproportionate expense on this account, he will be debited with the excess.

"4th. Mending is not included in boarding and lodging, and the boarders are left to provide for their own wants in this respect, either through the Department of Domestic Economy, in which the charges will be as moderate as will compensate for the labour, or in any other way that may be preferred."

But few items of interest appear in the month of July. The board for the admission of new members was busy investigating the credentials of the numerous applicants for membership; the charge to the members for using the daily express was discontinued; S. L. Hill was made assistant director of the silk manufacturing department; it was voted to rebuild the sawmill, and build a gristmill; weekly reports were required from heads of departments; Mrs. Wells resigned the superintendence of the boarding house; and some time was given to investigating "Mr. Preston's machine for making flax."



ELECTRIC POWER HOUSE—MOUNTAINS IN DISTANCE.

During the months of August and September but little of importance is chronicled. Mr. Swift resigned the directorship of his department, and E. D. Hudson was made his successor; several other changes in the directors of departments took place; Henry C. Wright of Boston was requested to undertake the agency of the associa-

tion in England, to procure subscriptions of stock, and was offered three per cent. on the amount subscribed; the first withdrawal from the association took place in the resignation of Mrs. Sally Hill.

Joseph Conant, Earle D. Swift, and Orwell S. Chaffee withdrew in October. They had been active workers for the good of the association, especially in the silk manufacturing department, where Mr. Swift had been superintendent. Mr. Conant's practical judgment in business affairs and the executive ability he displayed as president of the association had made him a valuable member, and his resignation was a severe blow to the Community. The experiment he feared would not prove a financial success, and his business tact told him to seek a new field that might yield better returns. In the "Book of Letters," the secretary, William Adam, in a letter addressed to John Bailey, dated the sixteenth of March, 1843, gives the reason for the withdrawal in the following words:—



"A NEW ENGLAND FARMER."

"* * * The fact is that towards the close of last year three of our members left us, finding that they had hastily united with us, and they could or would not merge their private interests in the general and common interest. The separation has taken place in an amicable way. They are all three relatives, have commenced business and purchased farms in our immediate neighborhood, have received from us all the assistance which it has been in our power to give, and have given us all the accommodation in their power in withdrawing their stock. They are men of good private character as the world goes, but their object in joining us appears to have been from the first, *pecuniary* advantage, not *moral* improvement, or *social* usefulness, and we all feel that their departure has strengthened instead of weakened us."

The three members referred to purchased Enoch Jewett's farm, which included the house, shop, and water power, and began at once to erect a silk mill, which now forms the western end of "Leonard's Mill."

The association quickly recovered from the temporary embarrassment caused by losing these members. Owing to the frequent resignations of those appointed superintendents of the boarding house, on October fifteenth the families and individual members residing there appointed David Mack, Maria Mack, and Nancy Richardson a committee "to superintend and control the domestic arrangements of the house." Edward Vallentine, an English dyer, had heretofore done all the work in this line, but he was not a member, and the association wanted some one of their number to do this work, so they agreed to pay him one hundred dollars to "instruct James D. Atkins in the art of dyeing silk," and the contract was signed October twenty-second. For eight years Mr. Atkins had been a stereotyper at the University Press, Cambridge, where the constitution of the association had been taken to be printed. In this way his attention was called to the Community, and, thinking favorably of the experiment, he came to Florence and was admitted as a member.

The board for the admission of new members for the last three months had been busy considering applications, and, although many were declined, a goodly number were accepted. Before the year closed a cutlery department was started, and the making of boots and shoes begun.



SOUTH MAIN STREET PARK.

CHAPTER IX.

NORTHAMPTON ASSOCIATION.—*Continued.*

THE YEARS 1843, 1844, 1845, 1846, 1847.—CAUSES OF THE DISSOLUTION.—MEMBERSHIP LIST.—NOTES.

SOON after the association started, the vital question of the remuneration of labor had come up for discussion, and the members had voted to leave this till the end of the year. At a meeting of the Industrial Directors, held the sixteenth of January, 1840, this matter was decided after many ballots had been cast, as shown by the following item taken from the secretary's book :—

"Resolved, That the labour of members of the Community during the past year, shall be remunerated in the following manner, namely:—those under twelve years of age at the rate of one cent per hour, above twelve and under sixteen years of age at the rate of three cents per hour, above sixteen and under twenty years of age at the rate of four cents and one-half per hour, and above twenty years at the rate of six cents per hour."



GEORGE W. BENSON.
Photograph taken in 1866.

The first annual meeting of the association was advertised for the eighteenth of January, but, as some departments were not ready to report, it was postponed two days. As many matters came up for consideration, the meetings were adjourned from day to day, and the annual meeting did not end till the first of February. However, the amount of business transacted was proportionate to the number of meetings. When the association was started in April, 1842, the leaders were unacquainted with the task of directing a "Community," and, as a natural consequence, many of the regulations intended to govern the working of the association after a trial of nine months had proved impracticable. These objectionable features came up for consideration at the annual meeting, and after many days of earnest discussion, in which nearly all the members took part, numerous amendments to the constitution were adopted, and a code of by-laws added. While these changes did not make the object of the association any different from the original

design of the founders, and while the principles as set forth in the preamble remained the same, the new constitution was a radical departure in respect to regulations governing the privileges of stockholders and non-stockholders. Several extracts from replies sent by the secretary to inquiries from abroad will not only give the gist of these amendments, but will tell us how they were regarded by the members.

"FEB. 27, 1843.

"To HENRY G. WRIGHT, Lynn, Mass.:

"Last year labour and capital held joint sway. This year, *as an experiment*, labour has exclusive control. * * * All this is exceedingly bad and imperfect. Come and judge for yourself. We do not claim to be perfect, and everything is open to the candid inquirer."

To Moses K. Meader, same date, Mr. Adam writes :—

"* * * The person who gave you the information that the amendment of the Constitution recently adopted makes the object of the Association very different from the original design, is, in the opinion of a large majority of the association, widely mistaken ; the amendment in their view directly tending to carry out that design more fully, to invest the whole body of the members with equal rights and powers, to unite them in co-operative industry, and to give them a common interest in the produce of their labour. To show this I should wish to send you a copy of the new regulations but it would occupy more space than this sheet would afford and I therefore will give the substance in the form of an abstract.

"1st. This regulation merges the Stock Company and the Industrial Community into one, and gives every member, whether stockholder or labourer, only one vote.

"2nd. This provides for the election of the Directors by the Community at large in public meeting.

"3rd. This provides that members and their families shall receive lodging, necessary furniture, fuel, oil, and clothing at the common expense, in addition to what is provided by Article 29th of the first constitution.

"4th. This provides that after payment of all expenses and charges at the end of the year, one-fourth of the net profits shall be divided equally among all the members, and the remaining three-fourths shall constitute an Association Fund.

"5th. This abolishes the Board or Committee for the admission of new members and gives the power of admitting members to the whole community.

"6th. This restricts the right of voting to those over eighteen years of age.

"7th. This pledges able bodied and healthy members to ten hours labour per day.

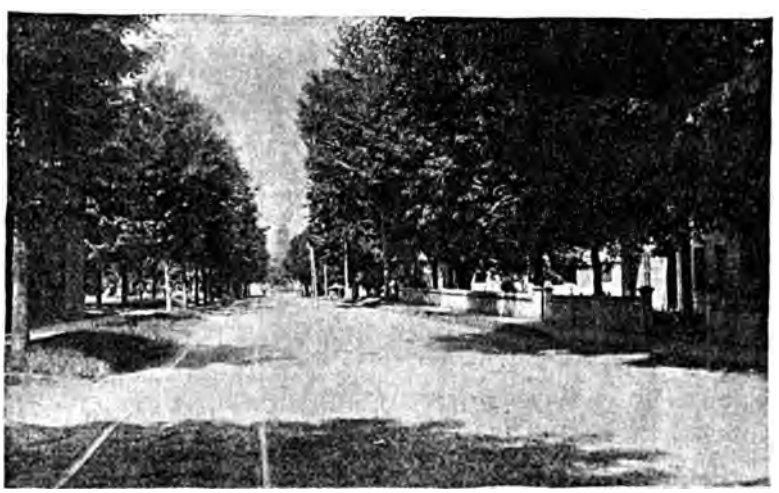
"These are all the new regulations, and I would remark on the fourth that instead of dividing only one-fourth, some wish that the remaining three-fourths also should be divided equally among the members, but this has not been fully resolved on, although it is probable that it will be adopted before the close of

the year. You will judge for yourself whether there is any departure from the original design."

Mr. Conant's resignation had left the office of president vacant, and at the annual meeting Mr. Mack was chosen to succeed him. Mr. Adam was re-elected secretary, and Mr. Hill treasurer. The reports of the directors of different departments showed that the past year had been a successful one. It was voted to have eleven departments, and the work of each was defined in detail to avoid any clashing among the parts of the great machine. The duties assigned to each department and the names of the directors and their assistants are given below :—

"1. Agricultural Department, including all farming operations, and all standing wood and timber. Theodore Scarborough, Director. E. D. Hudson, Assistant Director in Horticulture.

"2. Lumber Department, including sawing lumber, cutting shingles, care of lumber yard, and sale of lumber. G. W. Benson, Director.



WEST ON MAIN STREET—NEAR OIL-GAS STOVE WORKS.

"3. Silk Manufacturing Department, including the manufacture of Silk and Flax, and the direction of the machine shop. E. L. Preston, Director.

"4. Cutlery Department, including all kinds of blacksmithing and cutlery. H. Wells, Director.

"5. Mechanical Department, including all carpentry, the planing machine, and the manufacture of shoes. W. F. Parker, Director.

"6. Silk Growing Department, including the culture of mulberry trees, the feeding of silk-worms, and the reeling of cocoons. O. D. Paine, Director.

"7. Domestic Department, including the providing of females with work, the superintendence and care of domestic labour and of the community board-

ing house. Roxie Brown, Director. Nancy Richardson, Assistant Director of the Table. S. L. Hill, Assistant Director of the Household.

"8. Store Department, including the purchase and sale of supplies and the care of the Daily Express. Hall Judd, Director.

"9. Accountant's Department, including charge of the book and accounts of the Association. W. Larned, Director.

"10. Educational Department, including the direction of the studies, labours, and amusements of all members under the age of eighteen, in consultation with parents, guardians, teachers, and industrial directors. W. Adam, Director.

"11. Secretarial Department, including charge of the correspondence of the Association, keeping copies of letters sent and recording the transactions of all business meetings. W. Adam, Director. G. W. Benson, Financial Assistant in the Treasurer's Department."

During the closing winter months the members were busy perfecting the organization of the "Community," as it had come to be called. The new regulations provided for the clothing of the members, and the sixth of February, in accordance with this provision, it was voted that for the year 1843 twenty dollars should be allowed to all members over eighteen years old; fourteen dollars for those between the ages of fourteen and eighteen; ten dollars for those between ten and fourteen years; eight dollars for those between six and ten years; and five dollars for children under six years old.



A COMMUNITY HOUSE.—WHERE WM. ADAM LIVED.

The allowance for board was fixed at the rate of eighty cents per week for all members over ten years old, and forty cents per week for all under that age. This was the expense of board at the "Community House" and included fuel, oil, and rent, and no charge was made for labor which was furnished by the association.

The spring opened with bright prospects, and the founders thought that at last their ideals were to be realized. A lyceum and book club were organized and a reading room fitted up in the factory building.

The old oil mill was turned into a gristmill, and a cocoonery one hundred feet long by twenty-five feet wide was erected near what is now the junction of Park and Pine streets. Applications for membership came flowing in from all parts of the country. A personal acquaintance with the applicant was necessary for admission, and to make this regulation practical those who lived at some distance from Northampton were invited to visit the association for a few days. Sometimes applicants were asked to reside in the community for two, six, or twelve months, on probation as it were, during which time they received board and lodging in return for the labor they gave the association. If at the end of this time both parties were satisfied, the probationary members became regular ones.

Mr. Adam, as secretary, wrote to an inquirer: "The result of one year's experience has been on the whole satisfactory to all concerned, and although much pressed for capital we are advancing into the second year with increased energy and spirit." In another letter, in answer to the question, "What branches of business are in operation?" he says, "We cultivate a farm, we sell lumber and shingles, we grow silk and manufacture it. We have amongst us teachers for the instruction of our children, blacksmiths, carpenters, masons, and shoemakers. * * * We need a wheelwright, a machinist, a bootmaker and a baker."



"While firmer ice the eager boy awaits,
Trying each buckle and strap beside the fire."
—*Lowell.*

On the twenty-second of April Mr. Mack resigned the presidency, "in order that more complete and satisfactory arrangements might be effected," as the secretary's report reads. Mr. Adam also tendered his resignation as secretary and director of the Educational Department. Mr. Benson was chosen president and Mr. Mack assumed the duties heretofore assigned to Mr. Adam.

An extract from another letter gives us these items. "We number thirty men above the age of eighteen; twenty-six women, with six more hired to work in our silk room; forty-six children under the age of eighteen. We have but a feeble commencement of a library and reading room, but have raised some more than one hundred dollars for these purposes. * * * Our baths are yet *in the river*, and of course open to all."

On the first of June the report of the silk department showed a profit of $105.82 for the last six months. The director, E. L. Preston, resigned, and James Stetson was appointed in his stead. During the next few



NORTH FROM COSMIAN TOWER.

months much time in the meetings was taken up by discussing minor matters, and a committee was appointed to draft a new constitution. The new secretary, Mr. Mack, in a letter dated July 22, writes as follows regarding this document:—

"* * * I ought to say, however, that all our members *are not* satisfied with the modifications, and that there exists among us quite a difference of opinion as to the propriety of continuing the modifications permanently, or of returning to the provisions of the Constitution, though I cannot persuade myself that we shall again ever consent to give votes to dollars. Our experience has taught us some important lessons: That it is highly important to select members who are more interested in realizing the undertaking of the Association, especially their moral and social undertakings, than in making money; that to commence in debt is very bad, as expenses must multiply for some time and returns must be small; that full power to manage the various departments of industry and business should be submitted to the persons chosen to conduct them, and that they be not always liable to be called upon for explanation, reports, etc., and that

experiments in business be postponed until they can be tried without involving the risk of serious embarrassment."

On September ninth the new Articles of Association and By-Laws were formally adopted. These were practically the same as those which had been in force since January. It seems that the stockholders, as a body, had not accepted these modifications of the original constitution, and at a meeting held on the thirtieth of September no decision was reached. The following protest copied from the record book explains Mr. Adam's position :—

"NORTHAMPTON, September 30, 1843.

"The meeting of the Stockholders of the Northampton Association, of which the present meeting is an adjournment, having been the first that was held this year, and the first consequently at which I have had an opportunity of expressing my judgment as a Stockholder of the proceedings of the present year, I avail myself of the present occasion to record my dissent in the most formal manner, and in the above-mentioned capacity, to certain of their proceedings.

"I protest against the changes that have been made in the Constitution as contrary to the constitution of the Association, as illegal, or contrary to the law of the land; and as immoral or contrary to the plainest principles of justice and honesty.

"I protest, in particular, as a direct violation of the constitution of law and of morality, against the assumption, whether by individual members of the association holding office, or by the Industrial Community in their associated capacity, of the power to appropriate the funds of the Association for any purposes whatsoever, without the sanction either of a regular vote of the Stockholders, or of the Directors appointed by them as their representatives."

(Signed)

"W. ADAM."



DR. JAMES BOYLE.

The amended constitution was adopted by the stockholders October 28th, and the question was settled for the time being. The funds of the association were limited, and in November an effort was made to raise a subscription of twenty-five thousand dollars. James Boyle, as agent, was instructed to undertake this task and to lecture and hold conventions in

the middle and eastern counties of the state. Mr. Mack and Mr. Benson were to co-operate with Mr. Boyle, the former being assigned the central and western portions of New York state. Mr. Adam was sent to New York city and Philadelphia to make arrangements with a publisher to print a literary article for the benefit of the association.

THE YEAR 1844.

The new year opened with the resignation of William Adam. He had never been satisfied with the changes in the constitution, as was shown by his letters and protest. At the second annual meeting the old board of officers was elected, but the financial standing of the association was not all that could be desired. In June Mr. Benson made a proposition to purchase the stock and property of the association at cost, and to assume all the liabilities, but the members were not ready to disband, and after a heated discussion Mr. Benson's proposition was rejected.

This year seems to have been a quiet, peaceful one in the life of the association. The organization had proved efficient, and the differences arising between individual members were easily settled, and harmony generally prevailed. The unique character of the association naturally attracted persons who had never been able to earn a living under ordinary conditions, as well as those who joined from higher motives than simply to gain a subsistence, consequently the work was sometimes unequally shared. At one time the washing of the clothes belonging to the blacksmiths and farm laborers was assigned to a member, after others of greater physical strength had refused to do it. The complaint was made that a shirt was not washed clean, and the accused said, "If —— would change his shirts more frequently, it would be easier to wash several less soiled ones than one which had lasted a week," whereupon the reply was, "Ah ! —— is so stuck up now, I don't know what I should do with him with more than one clean shirt a week."



ELECTRIC CAR BARNS.

But hardships were endured without much grumbling, and the mem-

bers labored as they never had before. One of them worked one and a half years and received in return board and lodgings, one calico dress, one pair of slippers, and one dollar and fifty cents in cash. Notwithstanding these unpleasant features, the members who still survive remember only the bright side of their life in the old association.

The Educational Department deserves more than a slight notice. William Adam was its first director, and he was ably assisted by Mr. and Mrs. Mack, who afterward succeeded Mr. Adam. Sophia Foorde was also one of the teachers. Many parents sent their children to the association, and these "boarding scholars" were required to work as well as study. At one time, the forenoon from seven to twelve o'clock was



BRIDGE AT COOK'S DAM.

devoted to study, and the afternoon from one o'clock to sunset was given to manual labor. Later, more time for labor was deemed necessary, and the older scholars worked all day and studied in the evening. The tuition for boarding scholars was one hundred dollars per annum, which included everything save clothing, books, and stationery. A pupil received instruction in the mechanical and agricultural arts, science, and literature. In Mrs. Mack's class of girls were: Mary A. Richardson, Sarah F. Stetson, Emily Brigham, Louisa Hill, Harriet Hubbard, Helen Adam, Anna Benson, Esther, Clara and Mary Cone, and a daughter of Josiah Hayward. Among the boys may be mentioned Horatio and Giles B. Stebbins, now both well known clergymen.

The old oil mill was now a gristmill, first floor, above was a shoemaker's shop, and in the basement a bath room was fitted up. Mr. and

Mrs. James Atkins remember hearing the scholars at four o'clock on winter mornings with lanterns in hand on their way to the bath house, where the ice in the tubs had to be broken before the morning bath could be taken.

At this time many noted men visited Florence. William Lloyd Garrison and wife spent several summers here. Wendell Phillips, George Thompson, and Henry C. Wright, and others of like stamp, addressed the Sunday meetings, which were held in summer under the gigantic "old pine" tree. When winter came the company assembled in the dining room of the factory building. Sojourner Truth, the African sibyl, could hold an audience spellbound, and her singing always brought forth applause. She was chief laundress of week days, and Mr. Atkins says he used to help her wring out the clothes on Mondays when work in his department was dull.

Social life was unconventional and free, running to the verge of propriety, but never beyond. The marriage and family relations were held sacred, and, notwithstanding reports to the contrary, no scandal ever occurred within the association fold. Many applied for membership this year, but the accommodations were already crowded and only enough were received to fill the places left vacant by those withdrawing.

All had not been accustomed to hard manual labor, and it is no wonder that some made better teachers than Community farmers. At one time a new gate for the pasture was needed, and Dr. Hudson and Professor Adam spent several evenings drafting elaborate plans for the new structure, only to abandon them all finally and decide to make the new one like the old.

This anecdote is equaled only by an incident which happened at a "candy pull" at the factory boarding house. Everything went smoothly until Professor Adam found the candy clinging closer and closer to his hands, and not knowing how to get it off he went rushing around the room with open hands and outstretched arms.

From sixty-five to eighty took their meals at the common table, and nearly this number found shelter under the factory roof. The other members occupied the seven houses owned by the association, which were distributed as follows: The Benson house at the junction of Maple and Nonotuck street; the Adam house on Nonotuck street, later known as "No. 10," and in recent years occupied by Major Angell; the "old silk mill boarding house"; Josiah White's cottage, which stood just west of the boarding house; the Mack house on the other side of the bridge, north of Spring street; the Ross homestead and Gaius Burt's cottage, both near the Meadow street bridge.

THE YEAR 1845.

Extracts from a letter addressed to Abner Sanger, Danvers, Mass., give us the condition of affairs at the opening of the year. The letter was evidently written by Mr. Hill, and was signed by the executive council, and the department directors.

"* * * We are not at all discouraged or disheartened at the withdrawal of 'those friends who joined us with ardent hopes, and soon left us,' for we have found they were not prepared for the great sacrifices (so called), the labours and trials to which we are called, and their absence proves a relief rather than disappointment, but we are aware that their withdrawal may tend to weaken confidence abroad in the success of our enterprise, and that in some instances at least they have used their influence to injure our credit. * * * There is a mutually good understanding between us, and we have full confidence in each other, and in our ability to transact here a profitable business. We are determined to prosecute our enterprise to success if possible. * *

"We find the gross earnings of the Association for the year 1844, $7,361.19, an amount covering the estimated cost of living for the year, with interest and expenses, and that a great proportion of that sum, say at least $5,000, was earned the last six months.

"In the result of past exertions, and in the increasing advantages for business, we feel that we have a guaranty of future success, and, unless we are cramped for means to do with, the result of another year must be triumphantly decisive and cheering. * *"


I Sell the Shadow to Support the Substance.
SOJOURNER TRUTH.

The third annual meeting of the association was held on January twenty-third, and lasted several days. The influence exerted by "disaffected members," who had withdrawn, was given as the cause of the failure to raise the twenty-five thousand dollars stock subscription, and many members expressed the opinion that "perhaps the best interests of the association had been as much forwarded by our disappointment in this respect as they would have been by obtaining the end proposed." As the various department reports were read, many complaints were heard regarding the management, and explanations were called for. Some time before, a new regulation had been adopted which gave the

members the privilege of criticising one another as to conduct or habits and shortcomings, and might be called a "mutual criticism system." This provided for an officer named the "Intendant of Order," and he was required "to suggest to every one connected with the association the proper care and arrangement of the property or business of the association, and to persevere in such suggestions until they were attended to. * * * It was expressly understood that the Director had no power *authoritatively* to interfere in the business of any department." The first one to hold this office was Elisha L. Hammond, who received his appointment on the eighteenth of January. Benson, Mack, and Hill were re-elected president, secretary, and treasurer respectively, and the annual meeting closed by adopting a set of by-laws providing for regular reports on the time each member had worked ; rendering individual accounts quarterly ; dividend made equally to all members in proportion to time worked ; and some minor matters.



A HIGH STREET HOUSE.

Early in January the *Gazette* printed an advertisement which stated that the Association was prepared to saw lumber ; that "Woodworth's patent planing machine" soon would be in operation ; that the gristmill did a general milling business ; that the association would make boots and shoes, augers, bits, chisels, etc., and would shoe horses and oxen ; that it had a press for cutting nuts, washers and sawmill saws ; and that a German dyer would color dresses, shawls and stockings, wool, cotton or linen.

To accommodate the increasing number of those desiring to live at the boarding house, several changes were made in the arrangements at the brick factory. The kitchen was removed to the basement, the dining room occupied a large room in the second story, a dumb waiter running up from the kitchen below, and the space thus gained on the third story was utilized for additional sleeping rooms. The new dining room was dedicated March tenth, 1845.

On the thirty-first of May, Mr. Benson, as president, and Mr. Mack, as secretary, resigned. Joseph C. Martin was elected president, and Hall Judd took Mr. Mack's place. In June negotiations were commenced relative to starting the manufacture of cotton in the factory building. Mr. Benson was to form a stock company and purchase the

factory, and in this way the association hoped to liquidate part of its debt, which steadily increased in size until now it threatened the life of the association. By the last of July the contract was signed, and the new company was to take possession in October. To take the place of the brick factory, the association began the erection of a wooden building near their sawmill, which stood near the present "round house" of the Nonotuck Silk Company. Three years of toil and struggle had had its effect on some of the members. The prospect of success seemed farther away than ever, and on September fifth David Mack and family withdrew from the association. Broken down in health, he repaired to Brattleboro, and sought recuperation at Woesselheft's water cure. Mr. Mack, one of the founders, had always been a pillar of the association. His resignation was followed by that of Mr. Benson, who withdrew October first to devote his energies to the cotton enterprise. Thus three of the leaders had left, but new men had joined who put their shoulders to the wheel with renewed vigor. Among these may be mentioned Hall Judd, Joseph C. Martin, William F. Parker, James A. Stetson, James D. Atkins, and E. L. Hammond.



TOBOGGAN CHUTE—WINTER 1886–87.

THE LAST YEAR.

The fourth annual meeting was held on January twenty-eighth. Martin, Judd, and Hill were re-elected executive council, and several new members were received. It was voted to allow sixty dollars per annum for the subsistence of every member over eighteen years of age, forty dollars for those between ten and eighteen years, and twenty dollars for those under ten years old. It was also voted that two thirds of each person's dividend of the net profit should be invested as permanent stock of the association.

The spring passed without any unusual incidents in the life of the association. The membership list had diminished somewhat, but those

who remained displayed unswerving loyalty to the cause they sought to promote. Extracts from a letter penned by Bailey Birge in reply to an applicant for admission tell us how practical this body of reformers had become.

"We are in debt, and are obliged to work for our bread, and the compensation for labor is no more than food, raiment, and lodging, which I take it is all any man can have in this life. Our sources of *pleasure* are found in seeing our business prosper, and finding our brethren contented, cheerful, and industrious. With regard to the number of hours that our members labor, they are governed by the same rules that govern all who are anxious to do the most they can to promote their own interest, thereby promoting the interest of all. Your queries I will answer in detail.

"1. 'Is the divine art of music, "the soul of religion," as you are pleased to call it (though why I cannot perceive), cultivated among you? and to what extent?'—*Answer.* Every member is allowed to cultivate this 'divine art' to any extent he or she pleases, provided it does not interfere with the daily duties and calls which our circumstances require from them. We have singing in great abundance. The birds about us sing. The girls in the factory sing, sometimes singly, at other times in duet and trio, making sweet melody; at other times all striking different tunes; then the melody is *not* so sweet. Every one sings who pleases. We have very few musical instruments among us. One lady has a piano, and one of our hired men had a fiddle, but, as I have not heard it lately, I do not know but he has disposed of it.

"2. 'Are there many well educated persons among you?'—*Answer.* None to boast of.

"3. 'What is the state of moral and intellectual cultivation?'—*Answer.* We all mean to behave well, and so teach our children. Our intellects are mostly exercised in contriving ways and means to earn a livelihood and to pay our debts.

"4. 'What arts and trades are pursued by the members, and can a probationer take hold of any occupation he likes best?'—*Answer.* One member is a mason, one a blacksmith, one a joiner, one a shoemaker, one a miller, one a storekeeper and bookkeeper, one an overseer in silk factory, and a few do little in the way of labor, but see to providing ways and means, and stand ready to wait upon the working men and women, running hither and thither upon their call, so that they are not obliged to drop their work to wait upon themselves. These we call our Executive. * * *

"6. 'Of what religious sect are your members?'—*Answer.* Of no particular sect. Each one is at liberty to choose his own.

"7. 'Is the location of the place agreeable or otherwise?'—*Answer.* About so so. Not remarkable either way.

"8. 'Is the intercourse of the different members with each other harmonious and agreeable?'—*Answer.* About as is usual in good neighborhoods.

"9. 'Do you consider the community a suitable and advantageous situation for the moral, physical, and intellectual development of the man?'—*Answer.* If you allude to our association, I should say not for a man of your 'turn of mind,' and therefore cannot advise you to come."

The summer came and went, but brought no relief to their straitened financial condition. The association was hopelessly in debt. As a matter of fact, only about twenty thousand dollars had ever been subscribed. This amount was paid for the property, and from the beginning money had been borrowed to conduct the business. As disaffected members withdrew their stock, matters grew worse. In April, 1844, only $17,000 was invested, and the debt was $30,000. By the thirty-first of July, 1845, the figures had reached $39,196, about $25,000 of which was in the form of a permanent loan. In June, 1846, part of the debt was lifted by the Bensonville Manufacturing Company buying the brick factory, together with one hundred acres of land, but the erection of a new mill and the running expenses for the last year had kept the liabilities near the forty thousand dollar mark. Dissolution was near at hand. The following quotations from the secretary's book explain themselves :—



A PICTURESQUE BARN IN THE MEADOW.

"Regular Monthly Meeting. September 26, 1846. Met at J. C. Martin's. The president in the chair. There being no business before the meeting, there was a general conversation among the members about the business, prospects, etc., of the Association, and many were of the opinion that it was best to dissolve, as we were deeply in debt, and no prospect of there being any more stock taken up, which was the only thing that could relieve us, as our earnings were not large, and those members who had left us, whose stock was due, were calling for it, etc. Some spoke of the want of harmony and brotherly feeling which were indispensably necessary to the success of such an enterprise. Others spoke of the unwillingness to make sacrifices, to retrench and economize, on the part of some of the members; also the lack of industry and the right appropriation of their time; also the apparent *unwillingness* of some of the parents to have their children labor as much as our circumstances seemed to require they should, and the *indifference* to the same thing, on the part of others. After a pretty full discussion of the matter, the meeting adjourned."

"At an informal meeting held at J. C. Martin's, Nov. 7, 1846, the Executive Council stated that, in view of all the circumstances of the Association, they had decided upon a dissolution of the several departments as at present organized, and should proceed to close the affairs of the Asso^{n} in accordance with the tenth article as soon as practicable; and that no allowances for subsistence of members would be made after Nov. 1, 1846.

"HALL JUDD, *Sec'y.*"

Thus the association ended. Mr. Hill assumed its liabilities, sold parts of the estate, and continued the silk business. The members scattered, some remaining in Florence, where they have been known for their honesty, sobriety, good morals, and industry and zeal in working for public improvements.

CAUSES OF DISSOLUTION.

It has been claimed that the system of "mutual criticism" was the rock upon which the association split. This system was instituted, hoping that it would tend to the mental and spiritual growth of the members. The criticisms were to be made in a spirit of brotherly love, no offense being intended, and to be received in a spirit of meekness and with a desire for improvement. While the criticisms may always have been in the right spirit, some did not receive them with due humility, and dissensions arose, the offended ones seeking relief by withdrawing from the association, and removing from the locality. This system may have caused the resignation of some members, but it is extremely doubtful if it was the chief factor in bringing about the final dissolution. To quote the words of Samuel L. Hill: "The last two or three years of the association were decidedly pleasant and profitable to its members, except pecuniarily; they acquired a mutual familiarity with, and confidence in, each other, enabling them to speak plainly of errors and faults without the presence of anger, and to discuss calmly and candidly any differences of opinion upon religious or other subjects."



THE PAUL STRONG TAVERN TO-DAY.

This statement from one of the leaders, who remained a member to the end, seems to indicate that the "mutual criticism system" was not so powerful a disintegrating element as some would have us believe. Had the association started on a better financial basis, unincumbered by a large loan, and with means sufficient to extend its business, the experiment might have resulted very differently.

But though dissensions among members and financial embarrassment contributed their share to the final result, we may reasonably conclude that the failure was largely due to the fact that the world was not ready for the experiment. The members of the Northampton association were earnest men and women. They set themselves a lofty ideal of social and industrial life, of human brotherhood, and through four long years struggled to overcome the many obstacles that beset their path, enduring many hardships and privations. Although they were finally forced to abandon their experiment, it must be admitted that they did not wholly fail.

MEMBERSHIP LIST.

The system adopted by the association of admitting members on probation accounts for the apparent errors in the list below, which is copied from the book kept by the secretary. People often resided in the community for a year before being admitted as regular members. During the last twelve months the secretary did not take very great pains to enter names and withdrawals, and in some cases these have been supplied from the other records.

NAMES.	FROM.	ENTERED.	WITHDREW.
William Adam, wife, 4 children,	Cambridge,	April 8, 1842.	Jan. 2, 1844.
James D. Atkins,	Old Cambridge,	Sept. 28, 1842.	March 6, 1847.
George Ashley,	Chaplin, Ct.,	Jan. 13, 1844.	Dec. 28, 1845.
George Benson, wife, 4 children,	Brooklyn, Ct.,	April 8, 1842.	Oct. 1, 1845.
*Frances P. Birge,	Colebrook, Ct.,	May 28, 1842.	
Samuel Brooks, wife, 7 children,	Hadley,	April 9, 1842.	March, 1843.
Samuel A. Bottum, wife,	Mansfield, Ct.,	April 8, 1842.	Oct. 13, 1843.
†Roxey A. Brown,	Bloomfield, Ct.,	Nov. 12, 1842.	
James Boyle, wife,	Boston,	June 5, 1842.	
Wm. J. Bumstead, wife, 3 children,	Bloomfield, Ct.,	Nov. 16, 1842.	
Luther Brigham, 4 children,	Worcester,	Nov. 29, 1843.	
Susan Byrne,	Willimantic, Ct.,	Nov. 4, 1843.	July, 1844.
William Bassett, wife, 4 children,	Lynn,	Feb. 24, 1844.	Nov. 18, 1844.
Cyrus Bradbury,	Boston,	April 4, 1844.	Dec. 2, 1844.
Elizabeth Ely Bradbury,	"	April 4, 1844.	
Sarah Elizabeth Bradbury,	"	April 4, 1844.	
Bailey Birge, wife, 3 children,	Colebrook, Ct.,	Jan. 31, 1846.	
Joseph Conant, wife,	Mansfield, Ct.,	April 8, 1842.	Oct. 8, 1842.
Orwell S. Chaffee, wife, 1 child,	"	April 24, 1842.	Oct. 22, 1842.
George Cooper,		April 15, 1843.	Sept. 12, 1843.
‡Octavia M. Damon,	Chesterfield,	Sept. 30, 1844.	March 6, 1847.
Sophia Foorde,	Dedham,	April 15, 1843.	June 12, 1845.
Emily Farwell,	Cambridge,	June 17, 1843.	1843.

* Married Hall Judd, June 1, 1842.
† Married A. R. Nickerson, June 8, 1844.
‡ Married James D. Atkins, Sept. 30, 1844.

NAMES.	FROM.	ENTERED.	WITHDREW.
Gustavus Gifford,	Nantucket,	Nov. 29, 1842.	
Roswell K. Goodwin,		Nov. 25, 1843.	
Caroline M. Gove,	Lynn,	June 25, 1844.	
Erasmus G. Hudson, wife, 2 children,	Bloomfield, Ct.,	April 8, 1842.	Sept. 16, 1843.
Rhoda Hudson,	Wolcottville,	Feb. 11, 1843.	May 13, 1843.
Romulus Fowler Hudson,	Bloomfield, Ct.,	April 8, 1842.	
Samuel L. Hill, wife, 3 children,	Willimantic, Ct.,	April 8, 1842.	
Sally Hill, 4 children,	Northampton,	April 8, 1842.	Sept. 23, 1842.
Josiah Hayward, wife, 3 children,	Salem,	March 8, 1843.	July 2, 1844.
William Haven, wife, 7 children,	Windham, Ct.,	May 4, 1843.	
Matilda Hill, 4 children,	Willimantic, Ct.,	Jan. 13, 1844.	
Lucy Charlotte Hayden,	Bath, Me.,	April 10, 1844.	
*Harriet W. Hayden,	"	April 10, 1844.	
Elisha L. Hammond, wife,	New Ipswich, N.H.,	May 16, 1844.	Nov. 1, 1846.
Hall Judd,	Northampton,	May 28, 1842.	
William Larned,	Boston,	Oct. 15, 1842.	Aug. 2, 1843.
David Mack, wife, 2 children,	Cambridge,	May 15, 1842.	Sept. 5, 1845.
Charles May,	Benton, Ala.,	Jan. 13, 1843.	
Abner S. Meade,	Danvers,	Dec. 6, 1842.	
Littleton T. Morgan,	Cambridge,	July 28, 1843.	
Moses K. Meader,	Nantucket,	April 15, 1843.	April 3, 1844.
George W. Miller,	Boston,	July 22, 1843.	
A. Menkin, M. D.,		Jan. 13, 1844.	March, 1844.
Joseph C. Martin, wife, 4 children,	Chaplin, Ct.,	April 9, 1844.	
Lorenzo D. Nickerson,	Boston,	April 15, 1843.	Nov., 1843.
Enos L. Preston, wife, 1 child,	Brooklyn, Ct.,	Sept. 3, 1842.	July, 1843.
William F. Parker, wife, 2 children,	Nantucket,	Oct. 22, 1842.	
Susan F. Parker,	"	Jan. 14, 1843.	
Oliver D. Paine,	Chesterfield,	April 10, 1842.	June 16, 1845.
George Prindle,	New Haven, Ct.,	May 13, 1843.	May, 1845.
Fortune R. Porter,	New York,	Aug. 19, 1843.	Jan. 31, 1844.
Lydia B. Pierce,		Feb. 25, 1843.	
Nancy Richardson, 4 children,	Waltham,	Sept. 24, 1842	
David Ruggles.	New York,	Nov. 30, 1842.	
Stephen C. Rush,	"	Nov. 4, 1843.	April 23, 1846.
Lucius F. Reede,	Cummington,	May 20, 1843.	Nov., 1843.
Austin Ross, wife,	Chaplin, Ct.,	Mar. 29, 1845.	
Ezra Rosbrooks,	Cicero, N. Y.,	Jan. 26, 1844.	
Polly Rosbrooks,	"	Jan. 26, 1844.	
Louisa C. Rosbrooks,	"	Jan. 26, 1844.	
Francis O. Rosbrooks,	"	Jan. 26, 1844.	
Three Rosbrooks children,	"	Jan. 26, 1844.	
Theodore Scarborough, wife, 1 child,	Brooklyn, Ct.,	April 8, 1842.	
Jason Sulloway, wife,	Canton,	April 17, 1842.	
Pamelia Small, 1 child,	Norwich, Ct.,	April 8, 1842.	May 31, 1845.
Earle Dwight Swift, wife,	Mansfield, Ct.,	April 8, 1842.	Oct., 1842.
Herbert Scarborough,	Brooklyn, Ct.,	Jan. 14, 1843.	
Mary Ann Smith,	Bloomfield, Ct.,	Jan. 8, 1843.	

* Married Sidney Southworth, July 3, 1844.

NAMES.	FROM.	ENTERED.	WITHDREW.
Calvin Stebbins, wife, 2 children,	Wilbraham,	May 7, 1843.	May 16, 1844.
William Stearns, wife, 1 child,	Waltham,	March 25, 1843.	Nov., 1843.
James A. Stetson, wife, 6 children,	Brooklyn, Ct.,	April 20, 1843.	March 16, 1846.
Laura Stebbins,	Springfield,	July 8, 1843.	Jan. 30, 1844.
George Washington Sullivan,	Baltimore, Md.,	Nov. 3, 1843.	
Sidney Southworth,	Boston,	Jan. 27, 1844.	
George Thurber, wife, 1 child,	"	April 17, 1842.	Aug. 19, 1843.
Hiram Wells, wife, 1 child,	Mansfield, Ct.,	April 8, 1842.	
Joseph S Wall, wife,	Worcester,	April 10, 1842.	Aug. 8, 1845.
Wm. G. Wilson,	Vergennes, Vt.,	Feb. 4, 1843.	July 8, 1843.
James Willey,	Hartford, Ct.,	Mar. 16, 1843	April 8, 1843.
Lyman F. Wight,	Easthampton,	Aug. 19, 1843.	1843.
Thomas Whitmarsh,	Northampton,	Nov. 25, 1843.	Dec., 1843.

Statistics: The whole number of names enrolled is two hundred and ten. These two hundred and ten people represented eight different



QUARRY IN CHESTNUT STREET WOODS.

states, being divided as follows: Massachusetts, ninety-eight; Connecticut, eighty-eight; New York, ten; New Hampshire, three; Maine, two; Vermont, one; Alabama, one; Maryland, one; Unknown, six.

As far as ascertained the adult members who are still living are: Mr. and Mrs. James D. Atkins, Mr. Samuel Bottom, Mrs. Joseph C. Martin, Mr. Austin Ross, all in Florence; Mrs. Hiram Wells, Mittineague, Mass.; Mrs. A. R. Nickerson, Appleton, Wis.; Mr. Lucius Bumstead, Colorado Springs, Colo., aged eighty-five; Mrs. Scarborough, Northampton, Mass.;

Mrs. James Stetson, Brooklyn, Conn., aged eighty-seven; Romulus Fowler Hudson, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Oliver D. Payne, Youngstown, Ohio.

NOTES.—Many interesting items appear in the old account books of the association, but only a few can be given here.

"Jason Sullaway, Dr.
To horse to Springfield, .50
"Educational Department, Dr.
To cash paid Toll for the children to Mount Holyoke, .33
"Wm. L. Garrison,*
To Expense Account, Dr.
To Self & wife—Board from Aug. 17 to Sept. 19—9 weeks, 3 days, 12.57"

The following items show the cost of articles at the Community store:—

"Sam A. Bottum, Dr.
To ½ doz. eggs at 10 c, .05
"Mary Ann Smith, Dr.
To 1 Back Comb, .03
"David Mack, Dr.
To 50 Herring at ½ c., .25
"Geo. A. Hill, Dr.
To 1 Neck Collar, .20
"Boarding House, Dr.
To ½ doz. Britannia Spoons, at 10 s., .83"

New milk sold for two cents and skim milk for one cent a quart. Butter sold for ten cents and coffee for eleven cents a pound. Veal cost four cents, pork six cents, mutton five cents, and beef three and one-fourth cents a pound.

*The famous Abolitionist.



CHAPTER X.

ABRIDGED ANNALS.

How Florence Took its Name.—Population.—First Store.—Post Office Established.—Casualties.—Cemeteries.

From the very early days of Northampton till 1847, the locality now called Florence was known as "Broughton's Meadow Plain," or simply as "Broughton's Meadow." Soon after 1810 another name was applied commonly to this region, namely the "Warner School District." The Northampton Association of Education and Industry was started in 1842, and while it existed the common term given to the settlement was "The Community." In 1848 these three names gave way to Bensonville, and when two years later Mr. Benson failed, and the old appellation became objectionable, the village was called Greenville, from the new cotton company.

In the fall of 1852 a meeting of the villagers was held in the South schoolhouse to choose a name for the place. Postal communication was soon to be established and a new name was desired. "Shepherd's Hollow" with its woolen mills had been named "Leeds" after the city of Leeds, in England, and the name of the great silk emporium of Italy was offered by Dr. Munde as a suitable appellation for this place. The pretty village, the clear stream, the silk mill, all suggested to his vivid imagination the propriety of naming the village "Florence," and the stream "Arno." The citizens thought well of the neat and euphonious "Florence" and unanimously adopted it, but the "Arno" never replaced the historic term of "Mill River."

POPULATION.

In 1800 the population of this district was not far from fifteen; in 1820 the number had increased to about fifty, and in 1845, while the Community was in progress, probably two hundred and twenty persons were living in this vicinity. During the next ten years many persons came to Florence and by 1860 the population was one thousand. In 1863 it is quoted as twelve hundred and eighty-two, in 1864, fourteen hundred and forty-two, and in 1865 it was sixteen hundred and fifty-four. The village was making rapid growth at this time, and by 1867 it is estimated that the number had reached about two thousand. Since that time a more gradual increase has been noted, until to-day the population of Florence is not far from thirty-five hundred.

FIRST STORE.

The first store in Florence was established by the "Northampton Association" in April, 1842. On the seventeenth of that month the stock directors voted "That Mr. Conant be authorized to purchase groceries according to his best judgment for the use of the Community and that a store be fitted up for their reception." Later it was resolved "That individuals and families not belonging to the Community may be furnished with articles from the Community's Store at an addition of ten per cent. to the cost charged to members." Hall Judd was clerk in this store.

After the Community dissolved, Mr. Hill continued the business alone till the fall of 1850, when Isaac S. Parsons, son of Captain Samuel Parsons of Northampton, moved to Florence and formed a partnership with Mr. Hill under the name of I. S. Parsons & Company. This store was in a one story brick building, which was built by Mr. Hill soon after 1847 for a silk mill and office, and now forms the western end of the Nonotuck Silk Company's office building. Bailey Birge succeeded Mr. Judd as clerk, and later several young men who are now at the head of the mercantile interests of the village received their first training in this store. The list includes R. M. Branch, L. F. S. Plimpton, and Henry Cutler.

THE POST OFFICE.

On the twenty-eighth of December, 1852, after much hard labor, owing to the opposition made by the postmaster of Northampton, a post office was established in Florence, and Mr. I. S. Parsons was appointed postmaster, a position which he filled for sixteen years. Mr. Henry Cutler was clerk for Mr. Parsons during a greater part of this time.



MAPLE STREET.—NEAR WEST CENTER STREET.

Before '52 all the Florence mail had been placed in Mr. S. L. Hill's box, No. 175, at the Northampton office, and he brought it each day to the village. For months after the petition had been sent to Washington, those who opposed the change were successful in preventing the establishment of the new office, on the ground that Florence was not two miles from Leeds. At this time a general rule provided that no office should be

established within two miles of any other office, unless the postmaster general could be convinced that one was really needed. William F. Quigley's (later Oliver Thayer's) stage carried the one daily mail. It went towards Northampton about ten o'clock in the morning and towards Leeds at four o'clock in the afternoon.

From 1852 to 1868 the office was at the brick store of I. S. Parsons & Co., then for a few weeks it was at Mr. Haven's house, until Mr. Cutler received the appointment, and it was removed to the building now Cutler, Plimpton & Co.'s. In 1884 it was transferred to the building erected for it, on Maple street, near Main street, where it has since been.



"And all around me every bush and tree
Says Autumn's here, and Winter soon will be."
—*Lowell.*

The postmasters have been as follows: I. S. Parsons, appointed Dec. 28, 1852; J. L. Otis, 1868; Henry F. Cutler, 1868; Maj. J. F. Angell, 1884; H. K. Parsons, April 8, 1889; William M. Smith, July 13, 1891.

CASUALTIES.—On July 11, 1859, the steam boiler in Hiram Wells & Company's machine works (which stood on the site of the present oil-gas stove plant) exploded ten minutes before seven o'clock, killing the engineer, Frank Spear, and injuring Mr. Wells, so that he lived but twenty-four hours. John Franzen was badly burned, and died after six weeks of suffering. Mr. C. B. Rose, the superintendent of the foundry and pattern shop, was badly scalded and bruised. Wells and Rose were in the workshop and nearly opposite the rear end of the boiler.

The engine, a machine of ten horse power, had not been used for a week on account of repairs, but had been tried on Saturday and Sunday, and found to be in good running order. On Monday morning, a good fire had been made under the boiler, and at ten minutes of seven steam was issuing from the safety valve. Spear received orders to weight down the valve, which he reluctantly did, and, as the steam was forcing its way through one of the gauges in consequence of the increased weight on the valve, he remarked to Franzen (who was sitting near by smoking,

waiting for the machinery to start up), that if the boiler should burst then, he would catch it. A moment after it burst, scattering the bricks over a distance of five or six rods, and covering the body of the engineer in the ruins. He lived till 9.30 A.M.

The boiler was thirty feet in length, and had two flues, both of which collapsed. The discharge of steam forced down an eight-inch brick wall, and moved the heavy iron machinery three or four feet. The explosion shook the ground throughout the neighborhood.

Mr. Spear was thirty-eight years old, and Mr. Wells forty-eight years. Each left a wife and two children.

Edwin Thwing lost his life in the machine shop connected with the silk mill, Saturday, April 18, 1861. It was a rainy day and the water was dripping through an open skylight upon his tools in the shop. He went to the attic to close the skylight, but, through carelessness, allowed his clothes to catch in the shafting which ran near the top of the room. He was whirled around the shaft with great rapidity, death coming in a few seconds.

CEMETERIES.

Soon after 1820 Josiah White, the oil-maker, gave the town a little plot of land for a cemetery, and in 1825 the first burial was made there. This plot was the northeast corner of the present Park street cemetery, and the original gift included the land on which the North schoolhouse was afterward built. This schoolhouse was given to Samuel L. Hill in 1863 (on consideration that he would build a larger one to replace the South schoolhouse) and he sold it soon after to private parties, and they acquired the land by "peaceful possession." So through carelessness this portion of Josiah White's gift was forfeited. During the fifties it was seen that a larger burial ground would soon be required, and on May 4, 1858, the town paid Mr. A. P. Critchlow seventy-five dollars for enough land to make the lot nearly square.

By 1881 the growth of the village warranted the purchase of additional ground for burial purposes. There had been a strong desire among many residents of Florence that the two places, Florence and Northampton center, might sometime be merged into one, and when, in 1881, the town purchased the Dennison water cure property for a burying ground, there was much dissatisfaction expressed among some who foresaw that this move would mean death to their hopes. Timely agitation of the subject brought about the desired result, however, and at the annual town meeting, held March 20, 1882, the town rescinded its

vote of the year previous whereby the Dennison property was to be plotted and staked off for burial lots, and the Florence cemetery matter was referred to a committee of five. This committee, consisting of H. K. Parsons, W. H. Riley, L. F. S. Plimpton, J. L. Otis, and G. H. Ray, reported June 19, 1882, recommending the purchase of a large tract in the northern part of the village known as the "Graves and Warner" lots. The land was bought for $1,731, and by the year following the amount of money expended for the land and putting it in shape had reached $3,891.96. The first burial took place in April, 1883, and before the year closed a receiving tomb had been built at a cost of $700. To transform the wild waste into a suitable burying ground was no small task, and the present Spring Grove cemetery, although not famous for its attractiveness, is a spot of natural beauty and some day will be a park that the village will take pride in.



SPRING GROVE CEMETERY.


PART SECOND
OLD
COMMUNITY
TIMES
RELIGIOVS
EDVCATIONAL
MISCELLANEOVS
BIOGRAPHICAL
INDUSTRIAL
INTERESTS

OLD COMMUNITY TIMES.

REMINISCENCES.

By Frances P. Judd.

In attempting to recall the early days of what is now Florence, one cannot avoid in a measure living it all over again ; of thinking of one's self as young and hopeful, and full of the enthusiasm of new ideas, and new aspirations for higher and purer conditions of humanity. A half century has gone by since then, with many changes for the writer, but with no abatement of the interest then felt in social, religious, and political reforms. I well remember the first time I saw the place which was afterwards to be the scene of so much struggle, enjoyment, disappointment, and sorrow ; struggle with poverty, not scarcity of the necessaries of life, but an ever present consciousness of the necessity of self-denial and rigid economy ; enjoyment of congenial society, a common purpose in life, and a mutual desire to promote the best interests of mankind. The end desired could not be reached in the way we had hoped, hence our disappointment.

I came from Northampton one beautiful Sunday in spring, a friend driving in to bring me and another, to see the place which we hoped would be to us a paradise. We came out by Prospect street, then down what is now Pine street, and across the lot to the back door of the house that was occupied by Mr. Benson and his large family. This house was at the corner of what is now Maple and Nonotuck streets. It seemed to be in a wilderness. A pine grove and ravine were west of it, and the land to the east was covered with mulberry bushes. Indeed, the side hill and plain above were given up to the "morus multicaulis."

The only names I had heard in connection with the new enterprise were those of Benson, Hill, Adam, and Mack. The matter of our joining the "Northampton Association" was discussed that day, and when we returned to Northampton the question was put to me, "Shall we take what little money we have and cast in our lot with these people, who everybody says are visionary, fanatical, and foolish, or shall we go elsewhere to make our home and get our living?" I said, "We will join them." In a short time we married, and came here. This was in 1842, and here my home has since been.

The association was formed. New people constantly came, drawn by sympathy of views on one subject or another; all were earnest in the anti-slavery cause; many were deeply interested in non-resistance; all were temperance people and some had suffered expulsion from the churches for their course on anti-slavery or other matters. They came together, and the former inhabitants of this rural hamlet looked on with suspicion and distrust at this new order of things. These people, who had invaded their formerly quiet domain, had such strange notions; many of them imbued with Quaker ideas and thinking all days alike holy. Some did not reverence the church and priesthood; some were advocates of vegetarianism, discarding animal food and all stimulating drinks. No wonder we were "past finding out." I do not know that



WILDER PLACE—PARK STREET.

any of our people were immoral, or that their neighbors could accuse them of dishonesty in their dealings, or anything worse than their disregard of outward religious observances.

Houses were scarce, and to accommodate all who wished to join us, part of the brick factory was fitted up as a boarding house. The quarters were rude and plain, and the fact that the members were willing to submit to the many inconveniences, and to forego all luxuries and many of the comforts to which they had been accustomed, showed how dear to their hearts was the cause they had espoused.

The "labor question" was, even then, stirring earnest and philanthropic souls, and the fact that the employees in the silk factory were confined twelve hours a day led some of our zealous members to express themselves earnestly against it, and to advocate a reduction of the hours

of labor. That the immediate consequences of this proceeding were injurious to the financial interests of the association, there is no doubt, but the final result was satisfactory, especially to those who gained an hour a day for rest and recreation by the change from twelve to eleven hours.

The question of the equality of the sexes was never discussed. It was accepted as one of our fundamental principles. A wife has been known to vote contrary to her husband, and the family remain intact. Some of the more timid women looked to their husbands as their teachers, in accordance with St. Paul's injunction, "Ask thy husband at home." I remember one instance when some subject was under consideration, the opinion of the members was asked regarding it. One woman replied, "My opinion has gone to the West," referring to her husband's absence from home. No distinction was made on account of color. When David Ruggles came here from New York to find a refuge, he was welcomed and treated as an honored friend, and so were many others.



THE BENSON HOUSE ON MAIN STREET.

After four years of struggle, it was thought best to disband. For various reasons many persons had withdrawn and gone away to resume their former vocations under the ordinary conditions of society. Some remained and pursued their various callings. Meanwhile, the population outside the community had increased; new branches of industry had been started, so all could find employment.

New schoolhouses were built, one for a primary school on the site of the old one, which had been removed, and one near where the present fine edifice stands. It was plain, and small, and inconvenient, in the light of the present time, but to us then it was a great improvement over most of the country schoolhouses. It served many purposes. On Sundays it was used for religious meetings. The Congregational, the Methodist, and the Free Congregational societies, all had their beginning there. New enterprises were started, new societies were formed, and meetings for other purposes enlisted the attention of the people. At that time anti-slavery was the great subject in the minds of the whole

nation. I think it would be true to say that the people of Florence were on the *right* side. I am sure a person must have been very bold to have argued in favor of the slave system, and the cases were rare when it was done.

Perhaps no place of its size has had so much of interest in its history as Florence. The best speakers on every subject have been heard here. There has always been a platform to which all reforms have been welcomed, and an opportunity given to all to hear the best thought on every subject. This opportunity has been well improved. Those who have enjoyed the rich treats which have been provided have been strengthened and enriched thereby. The seed thus sown has not been lost. Not all fell upon good ground, but enough did to make Florence the home of free thought, and of great tolerance of the diversity of views which necessarily prevail in such a community.

Florence, as "Broughton Meadows," was beautiful. The river, the meadows, the sandy plain with its fine views, then unobstructed by trees or buildings, made it very attractive fifty years ago. The Florence of to-day still has its river, its meadows, and its plain, but now the meadows and the plain have changed. Houses cover the plain, factories and shops are numerous, and their number is constantly increasing. Still "beautiful for situation" is Florence, and may her people be as good as their home is beautiful.

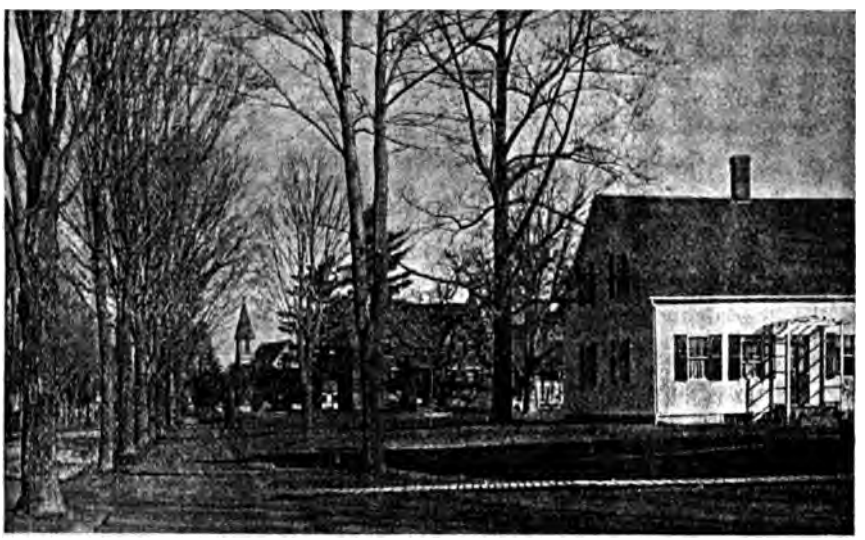
WHEN I WAS A BOY.

By George R. Stetson, New Bedford, Mass.

My recollections of the Community are those of boyhood, and I can only give some idea of the life of a boy. As I reflect on the methods adopted for our education and government, I am led to believe that the hope of our parents and the controlling minds in the Community was so to educate the children that, in their maturer years, the ideas of a broad, liberal, and moral character should have an influence in the improvement of society. In reviewing the lives and characters of those who have grown out of the Community, the conclusion is forced upon me that the results desired have been generally obtained. Mr. S. L. Hill, who watched over the children with more intelligent care than any other person, expressed his thought agreeable to this conclusion. There was no effort made to instruct us in any sectarian or peculiar theological ideas. If there was not much said regarding "the Fatherhood of God," "the Brotherhood of Man" was a constant object lesson. I have heard the opinion expressed that among the reasons why the project was not

more of a financial success was that this "charity towards all" was too generally extended in a material way. But this general hospitality drew together people of varied experiences, among whom were many bright and superior minds.

I remember most of those who were the adult members of the Community. Among them may be mentioned Samuel L. Hill, George Benson, Austin Ross, David Mack, Samuel A. Bottum, Hiram Wells, E. L. Hammond, Hall Judd, William Adam, Luther Brigham, James Willey, and Calvin Stebbins. These men impressed themselves on my mind as



METHODIST CHURCH. SOJOURNER TRUTH HOUSE. JUDD PLACE. HAVEN HOUSE.

A PARK STREET VIEW.

being more than ordinary men. Among the women might be mentioned an equal number who were all competent, and possessed greater intellectual ability than the average women of that time.

My father, mother, and their five children joined the Community in the spring of 1843, when I was six years old. I remember distinctly our arrival at the little cottage of my uncle, George Benson. For a great many years there was a beautiful pine grove back of this cottage. Among the trees were several graves, but I do not remember the history of them. Standing at that time in the belfry of the present Braid Mill, but three dwellings could be seen. To the right, towards Northampton, was the house of an Irishman, named Hickey, and this must have been seen through the forest trees, which covered the plain to a greater or

less extent; to the left was the Adam house, and to the north was the Benson cottage. Our family was installed in a suite of rooms in the southeast corner on the third floor of the Community boarding house. Very sunny and pleasant rooms, as I recollect them. While the danger from fire, or the distance from the ground, caused our parents some anxiety, we children did not suffer from this cause.

The large dining room was where the meetings were held, and during the winter a regular lyceum was maintained. The children recited pieces, and classes in music furnished song. The debates were carried on with spirit, and, as would naturally be expected among such positive minded men as composed the Community, personal antagonism would sometimes be engendered. But when different opinions were honestly

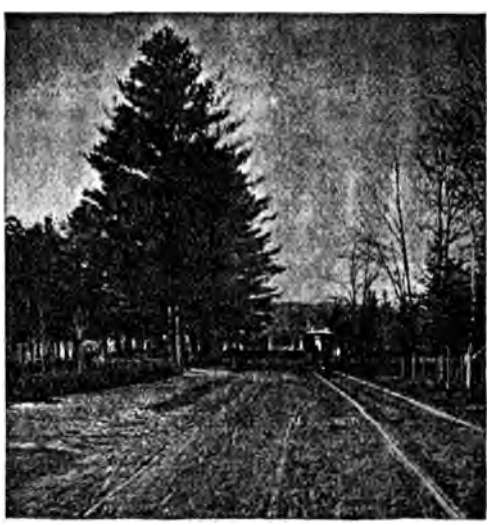


PARK STREET CEMETERY.

held, a broad mantle of charity was extended and the ultimate outcome was a better understanding and confidence. Any visitors who had special talent were invited to contribute to the general pleasure and instruction. I heard here for the first time the Hutchinson family; Judson, Abby, John, and Asa then made up the famous quartette, which for years was so well known. Fred Douglass was introduced to Northampton through this channel. I remember him as a finely formed, athletic young man. Among the family curiosities is a stone which was thrown at him while trying to speak in the Northampton town hall, about this time. David Ruggles was another of the peculiar characters that I remember distinctly. He was blind, and it was one of my boyhood duties to lead him to his baths. Garrison was a frequent visitor. I remember hearing him speak under the large pine tree that used to be our summer meet-

ing house. All of the old Community people remember this tree with reverence. The memory of many instructive lessons from earnest and capable men cluster around this spot.

Sojourner Truth, the African, who was a conspicuous figure during the anti-slavery controversy, was here and was accustomed to speak and sometimes to sing. In either act she commanded attention, having a tall imposing figure, a strong voice, and a ready wit. Her retorts or arguments were usually well directed and secured the desired results. She was brought from Africa when a child and held as a slave in New York state. She bore her tribal mark and it was sometimes suggested that she came from royal stock. She never learned to read, write, or figure, and in speaking once she said, "Three thirds of the people are wrong." Some one in the audience said, "That takes them all, Sojourner," and she answered, "I am sorry, as I had hoped there were a few left." One of the boys fell off the dam, and, as fortune favored him, struck in a deep pool only a few feet long. This was the only place where he could have fallen without injury as there was a ledge extending the remainder of the way. Sojourner remarked, on hearing of the accident, "If the Devil made him fall the Lord had a fixed place for him to light in."



VIEW ON PINE STREET IN 1870.

The educational methods were original and our instructors were among the first in this country to use object lessons. While the children of my age had lessons from books, the lessons taught through the oral and practically illustrated methods are the ones I now remember. A class of which I was a member was under the instruction of Miss Sophia Foorde. Our schoolroom was frequently the plain back of the present braid factory. On the banks of the river we were taught to build the different geographical formations, miniature islands, capes, promontories, peninsulas, and isthmuses. I have frequently noticed that I have a much clearer idea of these formations than others of my age, who were my superiors in memorizing lessons.

Work was interspersed with our lessons. We gathered the mulberry leaves for the silkworms, being watched over and directed by a member appointed for that purpose. Among those who had my class in charge was a man educated for a Catholic priest. To encourage us to work and to still the clatter of our tongues he sometimes recited a Latin prayer. As this was always a reward for welldoing on our part, he expected to receive an immediate answer. Mr. Austin Ross usually had the care of the boys older than myself, though sometimes my class was placed under his charge. We were watched while at work or at play, instructed in swimming, as well as in hoeing, and while I never knew corporal punishment to be resorted to, Mr. Ross had the reputation of being able to close his hand very tightly on the arm or shoulder of any boy who disobeyed his orders. I presume the Community children had their troubles and hardships, but my memory mostly brings "visions of happiness." The occasional rides to the wood lot with Mr. Bottum, or to the farm with Mr. Ross, and many incidents of work and play are all reflected in rose-colored hues.



THE ISAAC PARSONS PLACE—NOW H. F. CUTLER'S RESIDENCE.

There has been much interest excited about the grave of a young lady who was buried by the road leading to Bay State. This was a beautiful place, sloping toward the river. Our Community Paradise, with its large pine trees, among whose roots wound a brook, was on one side, and the river on the other side. Over the grave a beautiful oak spread its protecting branches. She was buried here according to her request, and the children filed by and dropped in her grave their sprigs of evergreen and wild flowers. Very few of those to maturity grown who stood around her grave at that time but have followed her to the great unknown. Mrs. Judd,* Mrs. Martin, Mr. Ross, Mr. and Mrs.

* Died January, 1894. Article written December, 1892.—[EDITOR.

Atkins, and Mr. Bottum yet remain, and have watched the many transitions that have taken place around the homes of the old Community, an association formed to help its individual members to more complete and well rounded life. The enterprise failed materially, but among the eternal forces that live and influence the world, I believe the Community still has its being.

WHEN I WAS A GIRL.

By a Community Maiden.

My earliest recollections connected with Florence were of the long journey from Brooklyn, Conn., made with our family by private conveyance, there being no railroad to Northampton at that time. The cottage to which we came stood on rising ground, terraced to the road, with a rather long, sandy hill at the back ; a beautiful grove of great pine trees at one side, and just beyond that a deep, broad, sand valley, clean, white, and fine ; an ideal playground for children. Our great delight was to start some distance from its brink, run as fast as we could, jump over and land knee deep in its warm embrace.

Across the road, and directly opposite the cottage, ran a shallow brook, with sandy soil on either side, in which grew fine, firm cranberries, the first and last I ever saw growing. Beyond the brook, and a zig-zag fence, lay a swamp of some extent, which was our resort when hunting the trailing arbutus, which grew there in perfection. One day, while looking for the flowers, I rolled a log over, and beheld a large, black snake surrounded by her family of little blackies, whereupon the mother opened wide her mouth, and one by one the six baby snakes disappeared down that receptacle.



POLLY BOSWORTH HOUSE TO-DAY.

How long it might have been before the Community was founded, I have no idea, but soon the brick mill became a place of residence for families, and uncles, aunts, and cousins, besides others, began to arrive, and my lonely life was relieved by companions of all ages.

And then began our school life, which was so different from the

stereotyped training of other young folks of those days. Our teachers were people of original ideas on education; thoughtful, progressive, intellectual, somewhat unusual qualifications, then, for school teachers. The best remembered of them all were Mr. and Mrs. David Mack. All our teachers, however, were our friends and companions, and our schoolroom, very often, some lovely grove, or shady nook on the banks of the winding Mill River. We were taught botany wherever flowers grew, and we learned by object lessons many things that city children never knew unless in adult life their interest in some special pursuit brought them in close contact with nature. We traveled miles, climbed Mounts Holyoke and Tom in search of rare specimens of their flora, or minerals; anything, in fact, that our quick eyes could spy out from which our teachers could give us a new idea.

When the cold weather drove us indoors, our work differed in many points. We were taught sewing, braiding straw, knitting silk and beaded purses, and other useful things. And while we worked our teacher read the classics to us,—Shakespeare's plays, Scott's novels, Prescott's "History of the Conquest of Mexico," "Undine," and many other charming books, both prose and poetry; so that while our minds were the most receptive, all the beauties of the literature were pointed out and impressed upon us. Another feature was the bringing of a new fact, or idea, each morning to school with us, and some of them were very new, indeed, as, for instance, when a small cousin of mine gave as her quota of information, that she "never knew before that Mary, Queen of Scots, cut her own head off!" the shocked expression of her large, blue eyes attesting her firm belief in her "fact." But with all that was unusual in our schooling, the old-fashioned ways of study were by no means neglected, and we had to learn our lessons, also.

One feature of our training was the athletic exercises that the girls, as well as the boys, were expected to take. As the blind, colored man, Dr. Ruggles, was very fond of us youngsters, we were, of course, great friends of his. No sooner did we "sight" him, than, with arm sharply bent at elbow, we gathered around him to have the exact extent of muscular improvement from our latest practice on cross-tree (or other trees, for that matter) decided by his infallible judgment. I am still proud to say that my muscle always stood well in his estimation. Bathing was another much sought amusement of ours, and many a retired nook on the river was a favored sporting place.

One department of industry was raising silkworms for raw silk. Extensive fields of mulberry bushes were already planted, a cocoonery was built, and the eggs imported. The children did the work, under the supervision of a couple of men to keep us in order, and see that it was

not all play and no work. The long, rather low cocoonery had shelves on each side of a passageway, running lengthwise with it, upon which the eggs were hatched, and the boys brought the leaves in baskets, while the girls distributed them over the shelves, and worms soon devoured them. The work was clean and wholesome, done at regular times, between school hours, and really enjoyable. Some of us were sorry when it had to be abandoned after a full trial, it proving cheaper to obtain the silk from China.

In winter our chief amusement consisted in coasting. In the fall, when the mill pond was full of logs, it was great fun to run over its



THE ROSS FARM—FORMERLY OWNED BY THE COMMUNITY.

narrowest part, jumping from log to log. What should we do or say if we caught our daughters indulging such dangerous accomplishments? We were undoubtedly a set of tomboys, as all girls would be if given their freedom, as we were, to follow the footsteps of their boyish companions. We ran races; climbed trees and fences; waded rivers and brooks; fished, rowed, skated, and swam—at least all of us who could learn the latter accomplishments, which but a few did.

And so passed the happiest hours of the happiest possible childhood. And it lingers in the memory of all who enjoyed its privileges, as an ideal

unattainable in these days of more artificial training for the young, which, superior as it undoubtedly is, so far as book knowledge goes, yet makes them old before reaching their teens. I leave it for others to tell of the many celebrated people who often came amongst us, lectured for us, and entertained us in various ways. I have only aimed at giving some experiences in the life in the Community of the children under twelve years of age.

A YOUNG MAN IN THE COMMUNITY.

By Giles D. Stebbins, Detroit, Michigan.

Florence has its own atmosphere and character. It is noteworthy, not only for its natural beauty and for its aspect of thrift and taste, but for the cheerful industry, the decent ways, the fraternal spirit, the free and active mental and moral life and the religious charity of its people.

What ideas inspired its founders? What influences shaped its character and vitalized its air? My part of the answer will be some glimpses of a year in the Community, when I was twenty-five years old. The brick factory by the river side, the few plain houses scattered around it, the pleasant valley, the broad fields, the wooded hills with paths among the great trees and the laurels and wild flowers along their winding ways,—all are in my mind's eye.

Plain living and high thinking went together. Social life was unconventional, going to the bounds of propriety but not beyond. I did not know a grossly depraved person, and there were no tragic outbreaks of vice or crime. Vulgarity was less common than in the outer world. They were thinking people, trying a noble experiment,—an effort for industry and education more fraternal than seemed possible elsewhere. It may be said that they did not succeed, but surely they did not wholly fail, for the memory of those days has been pleasant and helpful to all. There and elsewhere, far and near, I have met the pioneers of that Community, and have found no "black sheep" among them. There was a strange charm in the daily contact with persons of widely varying opinions, freely exchanged without controversy. Even in religion there was no cold wave of self-righteous bigotry, and we find to-day a kindly charity and mutual respect among the various denominations.

There were many visitors,—persons eminent in thought and life, interested in this experiment,—and meeting them was interesting and instructive, sometimes amusing. Rev. Mr. Woodbridge, a grave Puritan D.D. of Hadley, came one day, met among the silkworms a young man named

Porter, and asked, "What do you do here Sundays?" The reply was: "We rest, sometimes do pressing work, read, think, hold meetings, and try to behave as well as we do Mondays." The preacher asked, "Have you no minister?" "No," was the answer; "we all speak if we wish, men and women. You can come and say what you please; we will treat you well, but we may not agree with you and may ask questions." "Do you all think alike? How do you get along when you don't agree?" The young man picked up a stick and rapped on the fence rail, first on one place and then along the rail, saying, "You notice that when I rap on one spot the sound is monotonous, when I move my stick it varies. Don't you like the variations? You are not foolish enough to quarrel with the stick or the rail because these sounds differ, but you like to hear them and make up your mind which is best." A good object lesson in free inquiry.



RESIDENCE OF SAMUEL PORTER.

The Sunday meetings were always provocative of thought, usually interesting, sometimes crude. They were held in the factory dining room, or under the shade of a great pine in the grove on the hilltop. William Lloyd Garrison spent part of the summer here, and spoke several times. The listening group, the speaker standing by the massive trunk of the towering tree, his bold yet reverent utterances, the fragrance of the pines, the mountains in the distance, and the blue sky over all, seem like something of yesterday.

I was not a member of the Community, but a student with William Adam and David Mack as teachers, ripe scholars and excellent men. It was a study of character as well as of books;—of marked individuality, moral courage, devotedness to good ends, some tinge of erratic fancies, and a warm sympathy which made life pleasant.

I remember a wedding at the breakfast table of the factory dining hall, with no cake or cards, but brown bread and wooden chairs and a squire to make the rite legal. The ripe wisdom and delicate tenderness, finely

shown in gracious words or acts by those who went from the wedding feast to their work in mill, or kitchen, or the open fields, made some weddings, where silks and diamonds and shallow compliments abound, poor in comparison.

It is sometimes well for a young man to find out how little he knows. It takes away self-conceit and leads to deeper thinking. I was at the age when self-esteem is active. A Massachusetts youth, who was a Whig, a Unitarian, and a prospective clergyman, might naturally have a fair share of complacent self-satisfaction. I had a room in a house partly occupied by James Stetson and family from Brooklyn, Conn. Mrs. Stetson was a superior woman, a personal friend of S. J. May, and other early anti-slavery leaders. One evening, in their room, the talk was of anti-slavery, and she quoted some Bible texts favoring freedom for all. Gravely and with oracular air, I spoke of Paul and Onesimus, and of the Apostle sending back the slave to his master. I can see still the shade of amused pity that spread over her fine face as she heard me through. Then she took up the matter and expounded the Scriptures in the light of liberty. As she expounded I was confounded,—that I, one of the lords of creation, who hoped, like Walter Scott's Dominie Sampson, to "wag my pow in the pulpit" in due time, should be so utterly humiliated by a person unlearned, as I supposed, in clerical lore, and that person a woman! She was kind, but that made it worse. There really seemed nothing left of me, I did not sleep for half the night, for thinking of my mental and moral confusion. But at last it dawned on me that the lesson was needed as well as right, and I went to her in the morning and heartily thanked her. We became cordial friends, and, having come into a teachable mood, I learned much from her.

Other friends I had, whose useful lives and large thoughts were inspiring suggestions of much that has since been well done. Samuel L. Hill,—unpretending, sagacious, tireless, of moral courage unsurpassed, and a fine integrity that made his promise sure,—the fatherly helper beloved by all; Hammond, Benson, Atkins, Judd, Ross, are names calling up men and women known and prized.

A leading aim of the Community was to emphasize human fraternity, to uplift the common lot, and its members carried that aim into the business enterprises in which they engaged on the domain which had been the place of their joint efforts for a better life for all. The character of a town where large industries employ many persons is modified by the spirit and methods of the managers and employers. Where business sagacity and fraternal humanity are combined all seem to live in a purer and more vitalizing air, and much is done to enrich the life of the people.

In this respect Florence has been singularly fortunate, and the business career of Samuel L. Hill and others gives signal proof that this combination is practicable and that the union of wisdom and love helps to the best material results, as well as to the best life for all. Fraternity and self-respect are better stimulants to skilled and faithful labor than a blind and chilling selfishness.

The Community was short-lived. Its errors have died away, its influence for good is still felt, for the right outlives the wrong and so the world moves upward.

WHAT I FOUND AT THE NORTHAMPTON ASSOCIATION.

By Frederick Douglass.

Of the great mental wave of reform that passed over New England fifty years ago and gave rise to the Florence, Brook Farm, and Hopedale Communities, others can tell you more and better than I. The religion of good will to man; of fervent desire and courageous determination to put aside the old and to venture boldly upon the new; to change and improve conditions of human existence; to liberate mankind from the bondage of time-worn custom; to curb and fix limits to individual selfishness; to diffuse wealth among the lowly; to banish poverty; to harmonize conflicting interests, and to promote the happiness of mankind generally, had at that time such a revival as, perhaps, New England had never seen before, and has certainly never seen since.



"Far from gay cities and the ways of men."—*Pope.*

This high thought of the time took deep hold upon men and women, and led them to dare and do startling things in contradiction to the common sense of the period. Many who thought themselves reformers were not ready to embark in the wild, or what seemed to them wild, and fantastical measures of these radicals; who, in their war against old forms and social arrangements, sometimes seemed to assume that whatever was new, was true, and that whatever was old, was erroneous. With them, the old way was the wrong way, and the new was the right, or at least had within it the promise of the right.

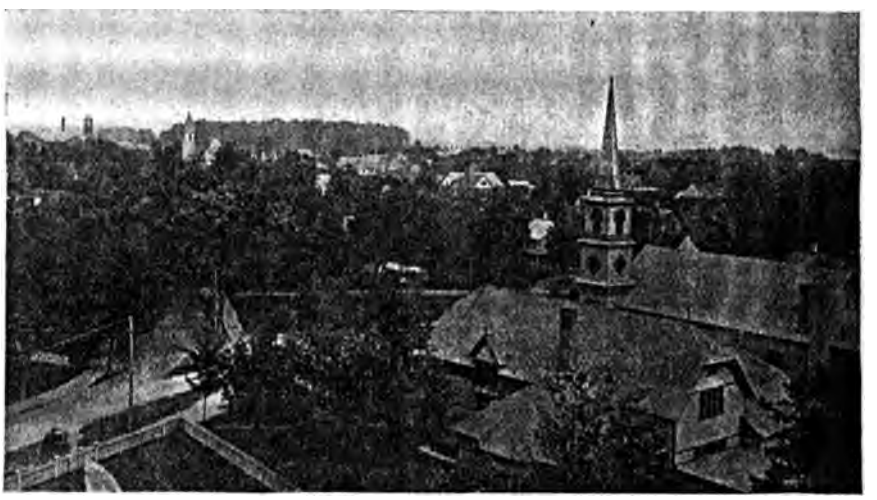
The period was one of faith, hope, and charity; of millennial foreshadowing. The air was full of isms—Grahamism, mesmerism, Fourierism, transcendentalism, communism, and abolitionism. Fresh from slavery at that time, and keenly alive to its horrors, my mind was mainly occupied with the last mentioned ism, and yet with a strong leaning towards communism as a remedy for all social ills. I found, too, that the men and women who were interested in the work of revolutionizing the whole system of civilization were also deeply interested in the emancipation of the slaves; and this was enough to insure my sympathy to these universal reformers.

Of the various attempts to give form and substance to the broad and beneficent ideas of the times, Florence and Hopedale seemed fullest of promise. For harmony, Hopedale had a decided advantage over Florence, in that its leaders were of one religious faith, while Florence was composed both of men and women of different denominations, and of those of no religious bias or profession. It was from the first a protest against sectism and bigotry and an assertion of the paramount importance of human brotherhood.

I visited Florence almost at its beginning, when it was in the rough; when all was Spartan-like simplicity. It struck me at once that the reformers had a tremendous task before them. I knew that many of them were people well to do in the world, and I naturally wondered how they could content themselves to leave the smooth and pleasant paths of life to which they were accustomed, for the rough and thorny ways they were now compelled to tread. The site of the Community was decidedly unpromising. The soil was poor and had little or nothing upon it but stubby oaks and stunted pines. The most hopeful thing I saw there was a narrow stream meandering through an entangled valley of brush and brier, and a brick building which the communists had now converted into a dwelling and factory. The place and the people struck me as the most democratic I had ever met. It was a place to extinguish all aristocratic pretensions. There was no high, no low, no masters, no servants, no white, no black. I, however, felt myself in very high society. I met there Samuel Hill, Seth Hunt, George Benson, Hall Judd, William Bassett, James Boyle, Giles B. Stebbins, Elisha Hammond, his wife, Miss Sophia Foorde, and a number of others, all people from the upper walks of life, and yet fraternizing with the humblest members of the association of which they formed a part.

My impressions of the Community are not only the impressions of a stranger, but those of a fugitive slave to whom at that time even Massachusetts opposed a harsh and repellent side. The cordial reception I met with at Florence, was, therefore, much enhanced by its contrast with

many other places in that commonwealth. Here, at least, neither my color nor my condition was counted against me. I found here my old friend, David Ruggles, not only black, but blind, and measurably helpless, but a man of sterling sense and worth. He had been caught up in New York city, rescued from destitution, brought here and kindly cared for. I speak of David Ruggles as my old friend. He was such to me only as he had been to others in the same plight. Before he was old and blind he had been a coworker with the venerable Quaker, Isaac T. Hopper, and had assisted me as well as many other fugitive slaves, on the way from slavery to freedom. It was good to see that this man who had zealously assisted others was now receiving assistance from the benevolent men and women of this Community, and if a grateful heart



VIEW OF FLORENCE—LOOKING NORTH FROM SCHOOLHOUSE TOWER.

in a recipient of benevolence is any compensation for such benevolence, the friends of David Ruggles were well compensated. His whole theme to me was gratitude to these noble people. For his blindness he was hydropathically treated in the Community. He himself became well versed in the water cure system, and was subsequently at the head of a water cure establishment at Florence. He acquired such sensitiveness of touch that he could, by feeling the patient, easily locate the disease, and was, therefore, very successful in treating his patients.

David Ruggles was not the only colored person who found refuge in this Community. I met here for the first time that strange compound of wit and wisdom, of wild enthusiasm and flint-like common sense, who

seemed to feel it her duty to trip me up in my speeches and to ridicule my efforts to speak and act like a person of cultivation and refinement. I allude to Sojourner Truth. She was a genuine specimen of the uncultured negro. She cared very little for elegance of speech or refinement of manners. She seemed to please herself and others best when she put her ideas in the oddest forms. She was much respected at Florence, for she was honest, industrious, and amiable. Her quaint speeches easily gave her an audience, and she was one of the most useful members of the Community in its day of small things.

It is hardly possible to point to a greater contrast than is presented by Florence now, and what it was fifty years ago. Then it was a wilderness. Now it blossoms like the rose. Though the outward form has changed, the early spirit of the Community has survived. The noble character of its men and women, and the spirit of its teachers, are still found in that locality, and one cannot visit there without seeing that George Benson, Samuel Hill, Mr. and Mrs. Hammond, Sophia Foorde, William Bassett, and Giles B. Stebbins, and the rest of them, have not lived in vain.

THE HUTCHINSONS' VISIT.

By John W. Hutchinson.

The glorious principle of the "Fatherhood of God, and the Brotherhood of Man" is a legacy to humanity from primeval times; it was the spirit that pervaded the day of Pentecost, and actuated the early Christians, who "held all things in common." From out the dim vista of years, to the believers of a later generation this spirit came once more, as though ordained to awaken anew the cherished idea advanced by the Master, the rule of love—that mighty, controlling influence which was to be once more promulgated to lift the struggling world to a realm of confidence in God and man.

It was this vital principle that made itself visible in the spirit that shone forth and the motives controlling the dear cluster of believers gathered in the Northampton valley, on the banks of the picturesque Mill River, coming thence from the homes of New England to form the "Northampton Association of Education and Industry." They sought to establish a community. For reasons that it is no part of my task to state, their experiment, like that at Brook Farm in Roxbury, the "North American Phalanx" in New Jersey, and the community of my own loved brothers and sisters in Milford, N. H., was short lived, but the idea is immortal, and some day will receive its successful demonstration.

As the last remaining member of the band of singing brothers and one sister, who in 1844 spent two happy days with this Community, it is a privilege to put on record some impressions and reminiscences of this delightful occasion. We were youthful and ambitious. Our voices had been already lifted in aid of freedom and reform. We had just closed our first tour to Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Washington. In the latter cities we had received our first impressions, by actual contact, of the horrid iniquity of slavery. We were now on our way from New York city—where we had achieved in its fullest measure the success so dear to the heart of every artist—to our New Hampshire home.

In the party that arrived at Northampton on that bright day in opening spring, was my brother Zephaniah, the elder of the band, who was our business agent. A veritable Yankee, full of plans, full of hope, except when a temporary set-back in our work or some slight illness subdued his spirits and found expression in some whimsical remark, half-sad, half-jocose; the life he saw at the Florence Community filled him with enthusiasm, and it was hard for him to tear himself away from the entrancing company. He was an Illinois pioneer, and now lies buried near his prairie home. Judson was there, dear, warm-hearted, whole-souled, angel-voiced Judson. His body rests in Milford, near the farm where the Hutchinsons were even then dwelling in a happy community, with Benny and Rhoda as the home guard, while the others were earning money for the common treasury in the concert field. Asa, the basso of the troupe and the youngest brother, was there also. He sleeps by the banks of the Hassan river, in the western home of the brothers, Hutchinson, Minnesota. And Abby, the youngest of all, then only fifteen, was also there. It is only a few short months since she was with me. Now she sings with the rest in the spirit world. And I only remain! How many of that band which we visited are left I do not know, but I do know that there was not a word or look or act during our visit that did not tell the story of perfect love and good will toward us and toward each other.

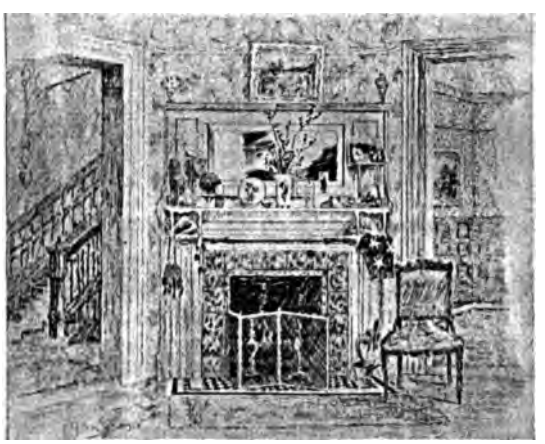


RESIDENCE OF NELSON A. DAVIS.

The date was April 29, 1844. All nature was alive. As we rode from Northampton village on that Saturday morning, we saw the farmers putting the seed into the ground, and found our young hearts in the fullest unison with the bright, awakening spring. We had long looked forward to the time when we should make our advent to this delightful, picturesque valley. We were greeted as we rode into the village by scores of communists, who had evidently been anticipating our arrival. Our sympathies were at once commingled, and soul met soul in true communion. We pealed forth a song of greeting, which kindled a flame of sacred love that pervaded all hearts. At once we were ushered to our lodgings and soon were prepared to be conducted about the grounds. One place we saw was most charming. In that delightfully picturesque spot we longed to linger. It was called "Paradise Regained," and at this point we gave a strain of music :—

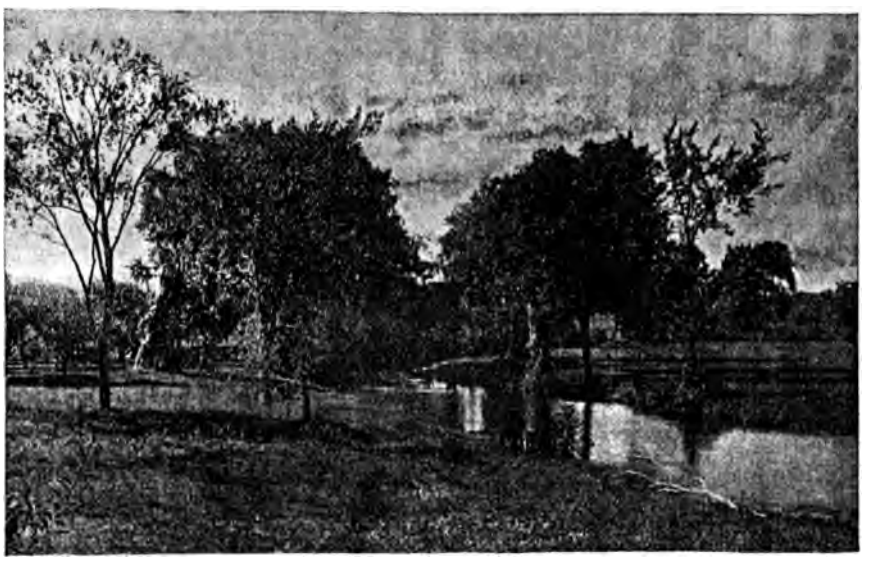
"This world is full of beauty
As other worlds above;
And, if we did our duty,
It might be full of love."

We strolled about the farm in groups. We went to the silk factories and thence back to the unpainted Community building, and into the dining apartments, where, at the touch of the bell, all assembled to partake of food. Order and perfect decorum prevailed, and joy lighted up all countenances. The distribution of labor seemed to be properly adjusted, and order prevailed among all the people. We saw no signs of disaffection, and our joy was full as we discussed the grand problems of the day, fully believing the whole world could be induced to come up higher into such realms of glory. In the afternoon we played ball. On Sunday there was a meeting in the great dining room. Frederick Douglass, then so recently "chattel personal," who the following year went with us to Europe, to promulgate the gospel of freedom,



A MODERN INTERIOR.

was there, and spoke to the communists, as did one of the leaders, Mr. Hill, and others. We sang many of our songs. I well recall the genial presence at the meeting and about the premises, of Dr. Boyd,* in his quaint Continental costume. Other faces are in my mind, though their names have slipped from my memory. At night we rode back to North-

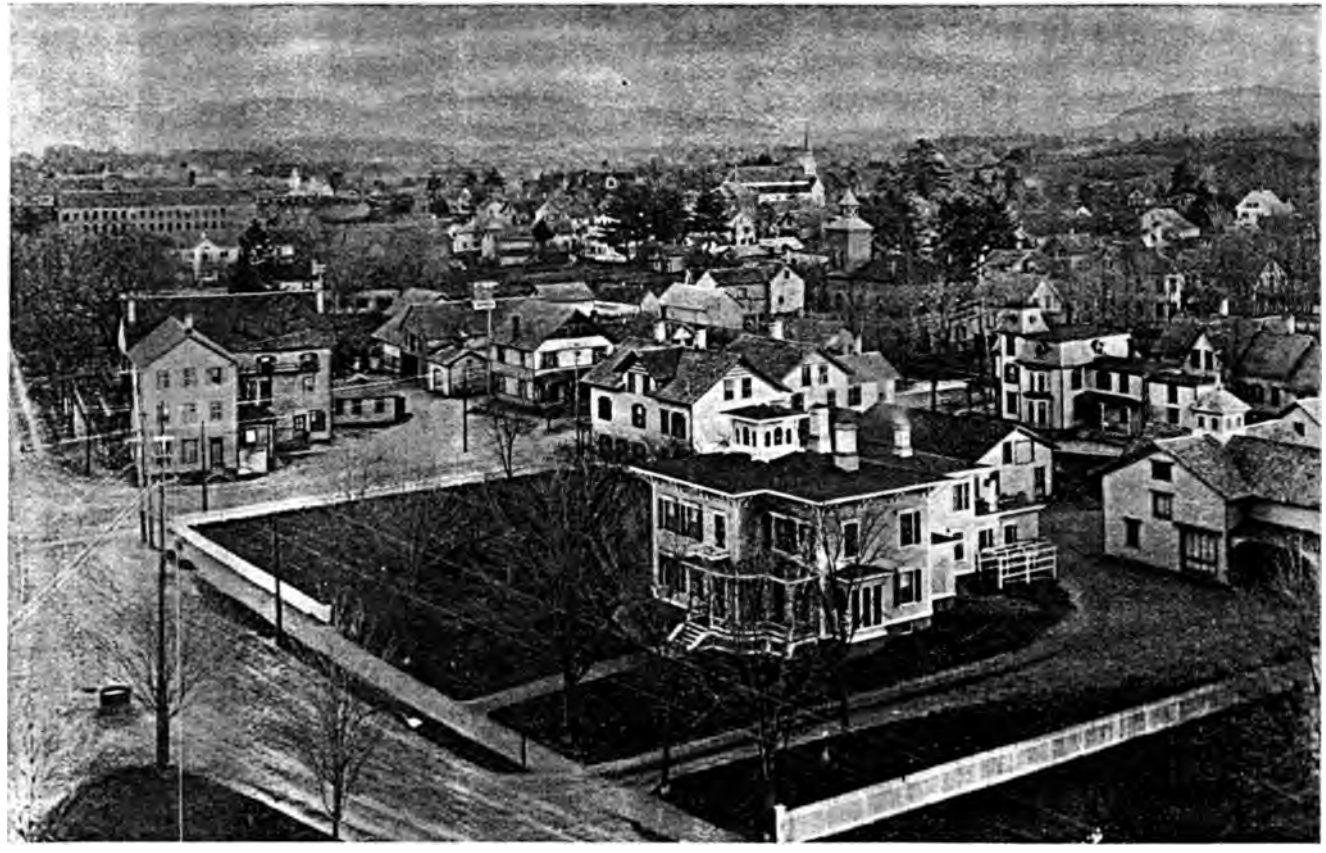


FORMERLY A PART OF THE COMMUNITY FARM—FROM MEADOW STREET BRIDGE.

ampton, where we sang at a great anti-slavery meeting in the town hall. I remember Douglass talked three hours. The communists came over to hear him and us in several two-horse teams.

And all this was a half century ago! I was then a youth of twenty-three; now my white locks tell me of the swift passage of time, though my heart is as young as ever, for I never mean to grow old. I have many times seen Northampton since, and in later years often met Samuel L. Hill. The silk mills remain as a memorial of the quiet Community which once dwelt where now is the site of a populous village. I am glad that I am able to join with such gifted spirits as Hill, Stebbins, Judd, Douglass, and Birge, in contributing a leaf to the history of such an enterprise. It is certainly well to secure such a memento before all the actors in the scenes of long ago have passed away.

* See portrait on page 93.



VIEW SOUTHEAST FROM TOWER OF COSMIAN HALL.

RELIGIOUS HISTORY.

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

By Rev. E. G. Cobb.

In the fall of 1860 a movement was made for erecting a church edifice in Florence. Land for this purpose, and for a parsonage, was given by the Greenville Manufacturing Company of that place, and the requisite funds were raised by subscription, friends in the Center making liberal contributions. The immediate success of the effort was in a large measure due to the earnest co-operation of Rev. Z. Eddy, D.D., pastor of the First Church. In the chapel of that church, on Saturday, the twentieth day of October, 1860, the "Florence Church Society" was organized. The subscribers to the building fund were also present, and united with the society in choosing a building committee, consisting of Messrs. D. G. Littlefield, A. L. Williston, I. S. Parsons, Joel Hayden, and J. P. Williston. In the following spring the edifice was commenced, and by the ensuing fall it was finished and paid for.

On the ninth of October, 1861, twenty-six members of different evangelical churches, having adopted the confession of faith and covenant, were regularly organized by an ecclesiastical council, into a church of Christ; and in the afternoon of the same day their house of worship was dedicated to the Lord. For six months after this they had the services of Rev. T. A. Leete, who had also labored with them for some time previous to the organization. He was succeeded by Rev. S. O. Dyer, who supplied the pulpit for the term of three months. On the fifteenth of December, 1862, Rev. Horace C. Hovey was called to settle as pastor, and on the fifth of February, 1863, he was duly installed. On the twenty-fifth of August, 1866, Mr. Hovey offered his resignation, was released by a mutual council September third, and closed his labors with this church October first, 1866. On the twenty-first of the same month Rev. Elisha G. Cobb, then pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church in Peekskill, N. Y., was called, and on the sixth of December, 1866, was installed pastor by a council of which Rev. Zachary Eddy, D.D., was moderator. Prof. William S. Tyler of Amherst College preached the installation sermon.

The original church building cost about four thousand dollars. It was divided into two parts, the rear, entered by a side door, being used for Sunday-school and prayer meetings. In 1864 a separate building was

erected for a chapel, and the entire church made into one audience room. The cost of the chapel building and changes in the church was about three thousand dollars. In 1877 a kitchen and parlors were added to the chapel at a cost of about three thousand dollars more. These rooms have been of great advantage in developing the social life of the congregation. The evening sociables, under the auspices of our Ladies' Benevolent Society, have furnished occasions for the introduction of strangers, mutual acquaintance, and a happy association of children with our church life. In 1878 the church was frescoed within, an organ recess built, and a new organ placed in the rear of the pulpit. The cost of this organ was eleven hundred dollars, toward which the old one counted for one hundred and twenty-five dollars. The cost of the other improvements was about four hundred and twenty-five dollars. While these repairs were going on the congregation worshiped in the church parlors, and were comfortably accommodated. This chapel and parlors were entirely destroyed by fire February thirteenth, 1885, and the present chapel building was erected on the same site during the following summer, at a cost of four thousand five hundred dollars for the building, and seven hundred and thirty dollars for furnishing. As the former building was insured for four thousand six hundred dollars, the additional cost of this one was six hundred and thirty dollars. In the summer of 1890 the church edifice was extensively repaired within and without. New windows, new pews, new lighting, new furniture, and a new finish have given us our present tasteful and comfortable sanctuary. The cost of this improvement has been about four thousand dollars.

By examining the record it will be seen by the numbers joining by profession that this church has been favored with seasons of special religious awakening about once in four years. These seasons generally began with the week of prayer, and have greatly strengthened the church by bringing in successive companies of new members. The largest number uniting by profession at any one time was in 1885, when fifty-one were received. At ten other times from fifteen to forty have been received. The work of these special seasons has always been done by the members with their minister, except in 1885, when Rev. Rufus Underwood, an evangelist, assisted for two weeks. The whole number of members from the beginning to January first, 1895, is seven hundred and seventy-two, of which three hundred and ninety joined by profession, and three hundred and eighty-two by letter.

If it should seem to any that more space is given in this sketch to the buildings than to spiritual work, it is because the material part can better be put into figures. Christian transformation of character and the divine tempering of spirit which sweeten the life that now is, and

prepare us for that which is to come, are more precious than silver and gold. What has been our success in this direction in the thirty years of our church life now completed cannot be stated in words or figures. We believe it has been as great as our faithfulness has deserved, and that it will endure in glory immortal when all trace of these material structures shall have vanished.

1866–1891.

By Frank N. Look.

A pastorate of twenty-five years does not come to the lot of many ministers at the present time. Conditions of life now change rapidly, and mere custom ceases to be the dominating influence, as of old, in deciding many of our problems and relations. Such a pastorate marks both the minister and people. Be the church really alive to all its possibilities, and in vital sympathy with them, qualities of mind and heart are at once demanded of the pastor, that not all possess.



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

A progressive church demands a progressive minister, having full sympathy with it, in all of its work. To work thus unitedly for twenty-five years manifests many great and admirable qualities, and hearty coöperation of pastor and people. Such a service could not be limited to the immediate members of the church itself, and the expression of interest on the part of all of the people of Florence, when, on October twenty-second, 1891, the quarter centennial of the pastorate of the Rev. E. G. Cobb was commemorated, bore striking testimony to this fact. His service had been to the people, irrespective of creed or nationality. It was a normal pastorate, for it had grown more happy, more fruitful, and more useful every year.

The history of this church, covered by this quarter of a century, includes many days of uncertainty and of opposition, difficult for the present generation to understand, but through the wise guidance of its pastor, inspired by his love for all men, and his strong faith in God's

leading, the church has been molded into what it is, "liberal toward everything good, and the good in everything."

No commemorative service could surpass this in expressions of joy and thankfulness, for all that it represented.

Sons and daughters from afar joined in the rare celebration, and it is a matter of great satisfaction that the life of Julius Phelps was spared to extend the welcome of the church at this time. His long life in Florence, being at that time the oldest member of the church, his keen observation, his strong character, ripened into all its fullness through the example and counsel of Mr. Cobb, especially fitted him to be the voice of the church itself.



CONGREGATIONAL CHAPEL.

The coming of Mr. Cobb to Florence had always seemed to him to have been of divine leading, and the joys of the occasion were heightened because of the presence of the venerable and beloved Professor Tyler of Amherst, through whom the church was brought to know of Mr. Cobb in 1866. Said Professor Tyler, at the close of his very interesting address, "Let me give you the right hand of fellowship for another twenty-five years. I shall not be living when you reach that goal, but I hope to be among the great cloud of witnesses who will look down from heaven," and the people said "Amen."

The Rev. H. C. Hovey, the first pastor of the church, brought cordial greeting and interesting reminiscences of the early life of the church.

Dr. David Torrey, the early pastor of Mr. Cobb, and his lifelong friend, spoke in his brilliant and fascinating manner, of the early life of Mr. Cobb, and of the happy results of his pastorate.

Mr. A. L. Williston, ever the friend of pastor and church, to whom more than to any other man the Florence Church has always turned for counsel and for aid, gave a very valuable history of the period covered by this twenty-five years, as well as of the years preceding. The results of this pastorate were made possible largely through the quiet, constant, and faithful work of the wife of the pastor. Her genuine interest in the young men and boys, particularly, her love for them, has made men of large numbers of them. Her Sunday-school class, like the church, has

always had a changing membership, having been as a training school, fitting young men for wider activities, for a broader life.

That many were not able to be present, but sent their tributes of congratulation and thankfulness, for the memory of her work, showed that in the work of life they were bearing their part with heart stronger for conflict, and with mind clearer because of the teachings and example received from Mrs. Cobb.

Letters from friends far and near, full of congratulations and good wishes, and gifts to both pastor and wife, expressed the love of the



NEAR THE RIVER —"LOVERS' LANE."

people for them, for "how much the faithful pastor and his equally faithful wife have done in molding and influencing the intellectual, moral, and spiritual life of the community." Could such heartfelt tributes produce other result than at the close of the day, when Mr. Cobb so appropriately expressing his appreciation, said, "I give you my most hearty thanks and offer myself afresh to the service of the Lord in this church."

Three years more of this pastorate have passed since this silver wedding, and stand as an auspicious omen for the attainment of the second quarter century, the golden wedding of this rich and happy union.

METHODISM IN FLORENCE.

By Mary E. Gould.

Early in the history of Florence, Methodists held preaching services; they were indeed the first to hold a Sunday service, the people being obliged to go to Northampton to worship in the earliest days. In 1848 we have record that Rev. Thomas Marcey preached here, though not as an appointed pastor; but in 1855 Rev. Jonas M. Clark was appointed by the New England Conference, pastor of the Florence Methodist Church, which had then twenty-five members. A flourishing Sabbath-school was held, of which J. B. Whitehouse was superintendent; A. G. Hill, secretary; and H. B. Haven, librarian. The library was the gift of a patient at Dr. Munde's water cure.



METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

The following year the Northampton pastor supplied the Florence and Leeds churches; and in 1857 Rev. John Noon was stationed here, and services were held in the North schoolhouse, on the corner of Meadow and Park streets, now occupied by M. C. Howard's paint store. The business panic of 1857–8 made it difficult to pay the preacher's salary and for that or unknown reasons no pastor came to take Mr. Noon's place, and the church disappeared.

Eighteen hundred and seventy marks the beginning of the present society; in the summer of that year, James E. Smith and Mr. and Mrs. J. W. King started a Methodist prayer meeting at the home of the latter, a brick house on Maple street which was torn down to be replaced by Contractor Latham's stone residence. So much interest was manifested in the prayer meeting that a class meeting was started. Both meetings soon outgrew private houses and a hall in Little's block was rented, where Sunday services were also held, with preaching by the Methodist minis-

ter from the Northampton church, Rev. J. S. Whedon; later two Wesleyan Academy students, who were preparing for the ministry, came on alternate Sabbaths to conduct the services. One of them, Rev. George Sanderson, was afterwards stationed here.

The hall in Little's block soon became too small, and in January, 1871, Davis Hall was rented and a church formally organized, the conference in April appointing Rev. Thomas W. Bishop, the first pastor. Rev. Bishop served the church most acceptably for two years, during which time the land for the present church was purchased and plans for the building made by Architect Thayer, of Boston, and the membership of the society increased from twenty-one to seventy-five.

Rev. William H. Cook was pastor from 1873 to 1875; during his pastorate the church was erected and the vestry finished and dedicated. The dedicatory exercises were held September 30, 1874. Rev. D. Richards of Northampton, Rev. E. G. Cobb, H. K. Parsons, and the pastor took part in the dedication, and Rev. R. R. Meredith preached on the subject, "Divine Origin of Christianity." After the sermon, Rev. George Whittaker, then presiding elder of Springfield district, made an appeal for subscriptions and secured eight hundred dollars. At the evening session Rev. E. R. Thorndike, of Williamsburg, read the opening hymn. Rev. N. H. Martin offered prayer, and addresses were made by Rev. Messrs. E. G. Cobb, George Whittaker, John A. Cass, and T. W. Bishop.

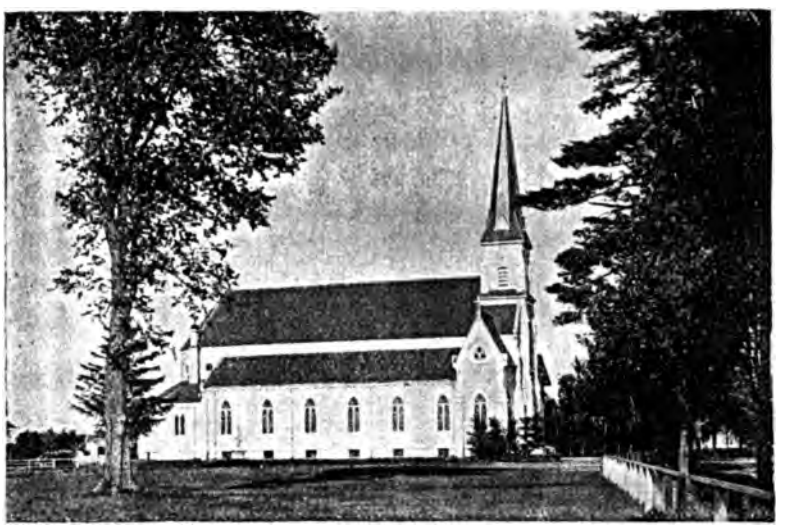
Rev. Raymond F. Holway followed Mr. Cook. He was greatly beloved by the people, and during his three years' stay fifty were added to the church and much accomplished for the spiritual and intellectual life of the people. Rev. Frank Bowles began raising the church debt, which Rev. George Sanderson, who came to the church in April, 1880, continued with so much zeal and such indefatigable labor that thirty-four hundred dollars was raised and the property freed from debt. Not content with this he believed the church might be finished and began collecting funds for that purpose, and work on the audience room of the church was begun. At this time, Rev. M. C. Chapin built a parsonage to be the unincumbered property of the society on the death of himself and wife. At the close of Rev. Sanderson's three years pastorate, resolutions were adopted commending his faithful labors, and thanking him for the zeal and energy he had so unsparingly used for the good of the church.

Rev. A. J. Hall, in 1883, continued the work of raising funds for the completion of the church, and it was dedicated, free of debt, June 5, 1884. Bishop Mallalieu preached from Acts ii., 33. Rev. Dr. Ela, Rev. Henry Matthews, Rev. A. C. Hussey, Rev. N. Fellows, then presiding elder, and others took part in the dedicatory service, and Rev. George Sanderson

preached most acceptably the following Sabbath. Brother Hall is especially remembered for his faithful pastoral work, the poor and sick finding in him a sympathizing friend.

Rev. J. F. Allen was pastor from 1885–1888, and won the confidence of the whole community, though he did not hesitate to take an aggressive attitude on the subject of intemperance, and other evils. He secured a fine pipe organ for the church, and acted for a while as superintendent of the Sabbath-school. Rev. A. W. Mills, who followed Rev. Allen, is now pastor of a prominent Brooklyn church ; and Rev. A. R. Nichols was stationed here from 1889 to 1891. During his second year he married Adella Shepherd, who had for some time been a resident of Florence.

Rev. John Peterson changed the hour of the preaching service from 2 P. M. to 10.30 A. M., and the Sabbath-school session now follows at



CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION.

11.45. The faithfulness of his service here is remembered by all the people. In the winter of 1892 the Christian Crusaders held meetings in the vestry with good results. Rev. George F. Durgin began his pastoral relation with the people in April, 1893, being succeeded the following year by Rev. W. F. Stewart.

Among those who have been notable in their support of the church and are now in the church triumphant, are Adna Back, Ebenezer Nutting, M. C. Chapin, H. K. Parsons, and Frederick W. Moore ; while many are still living who have endured hardness as good soldiers, that the gospel might be preached from the "corner church."

The church sustains, besides the Sabbath-school and preaching services, prayer-meetings on Sunday and Friday evenings, class meetings on Wednesday evening of each week, an Epworth League, Mission Band, Ladies' Aid Society, and Woman's Foreign Missionary Society.

THE CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION.

By Rev. P. H. Gallen.

For many years the Catholics of Florence attended service at Northampton. When their number increased sufficiently, a request by them for a separate parish was granted by Bishop O'Reilly, and Rev. Cornelius Foley was appointed the first rector in 1878. The new parish included Leeds, Haydenville, and adjoining districts. For some time the services were conducted in one of the halls of Florence, but the desire for a new church grew stronger, and the present site was purchased.

Great enthusiasm was displayed by the young and rapidly growing parish, and much encouragement was extended by the leading citizens of other churches, who, with characteristic liberality, subscribed to the undertaking. Rev. Mr. Foley having been sent elsewhere by the bishop, the work of building the church and of perfecting the parish organization was assumed by Rev. P. F. Callery. Few outside of the clergy comprehend how exacting and laborious such a work is. All the responsibility is thrown upon the rector, and to a sensitive nature the burden sometimes is very hard to bear. It weighed heavily on Father Callery. However, in a comparatively short time success attended his efforts, and the present church was dedicated October third, 1880. Since that time, the society has been undergoing the process of development as regards organization and usefulness. Strenuous efforts were made from time to time by the rector and people to pay the debt contracted in building; societies were formed, and the usual work of a Catholic parish was carried forward with considerable success. It was interrupted for a time by the death of Father Callery, whose genial nature had greatly endeared him to his people. His many sterling qualities of head and heart were recognized by those outside his church as well, and much sorrow was felt by the community in general at his death. His remains are at rest near the entrance to the church.

For seven years Father Callery had been ably assisted in the work by Rev. J. J. McMahon, his curate, and greatly to the satisfaction of the people he was appointed rector in August, 1886. For a few years only did he fill the position, until death called him. Scarcely less was he mourned than his predecessor had been. Young and apparently vigor-

ous, with a thorough knowledge of the wants of the parish, a pleasant, affable manner, and most winning personality—great hopes were centered in him. His death, in March, 1889, at the early age of thirty-three, was a severe blow to his people. He was buried in Fitchburg, Mass. Other priests formerly stationed in Florence as curates were Rev. James Boyle, now rector of Ware, Mass., and Rev. Thomas Lucey, curate at the Center.



ALTAR OF CATHOLIC CHURCH.

Father McMahon was succeeded in April, 1889, by Rev. P. H. Gallen, the present rector. He was born in Milford, Mass., March 17, 1855, educated in the public schools, and made the higher studies under the Jesuits and Franciscans. He was ordained at Springfield in May, 1881, and his first appointment was to St. John's Church, Worcester. The following year he was sent to Sacred Heart Church, Holyoke, where he remained until May, 1883, thence to St. Paul's, Worcester, where he spent six years.

The present condition of the Catholic society in Florence is fairly satisfactory. Its membership has increased from a few families in the early days to nearly one thousand two hundred souls. The moral standing of its members is not inferior to any class in the community, and in business integrity and general intelligence they are second to none. The old feeling of distrust toward the church they represent has disappeared, let us hope, forever, and they are now ready and anxious to promote the good fellowship that tends to united moral action in all matters pertaining to the welfare of the community.

THE FREE CONGREGATIONAL SOCIETY.

By Henry B. Haven.

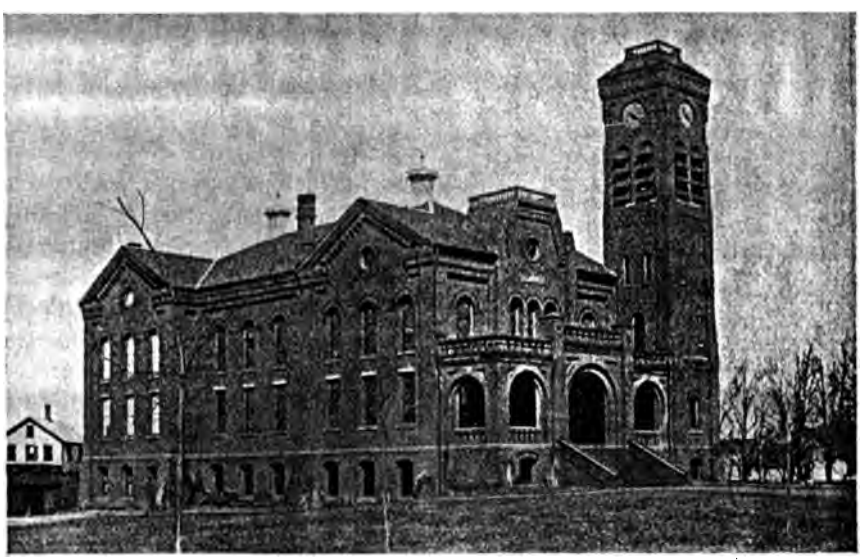
The Free Congregational Society of Florence really had its foundation in the days of the "old Community." After that organization dissolved there was no society to assume the support of regular services, but

for some years private enterprise sustained regular speaking, until, in 1863, the following call was issued :—

"To the people of Florence and vicinity: All interested in the promotion of good morals, general education, and liberal religious sentiments, whether Catholic or Protestant, or of whatever sect, creed, or nationality, are invited to meet at the South schoolhouse, on Tuesday, May third, 1863, at three and one-half o'clock, P. M., to organize arrangements for the better attainment of the objects above named."

At this meeting an organization was formed under the following Articles of Agreement :—

"We, the undersigned, inhabitants of Florence and its vicinity, in the town of Northampton, wishing to avail ourselves of the advantages of associate effort for



COSMIAN HALL.

our advancement in truth and goodness, and for the promotion of general intelligence, good morals, and liberal, religious sentiments, do hereby agree to form ourselves into a body corporate, under the name of the 'Free Congregational Society of Florence.'

"Respecting in each other—and in all—the right of intellect and conscience to be free, and holding it to be the duty of every one to keep his mind and heart at all times open to receive the truth and follow its guidance, we set up no theological condition of membership, and neither demand nor expect uniformity of doctrinal belief; asking only unity of purpose to seek and accept the right and true, and an honest aim and effort to make these the rule of life. And, recogniz-

ing the brotherhood of the human race and the equality of human rights, we make no distinction as to the conditions and rights of membership in this society, on account of sex, or color, or nationality."

To these Articles of Agreement, thirty-three active, earnest, and thoughtful men and women subscribed, and the society, established upon the principles as indicated in its Articles of Agreement, commenced its work.

Upon the first organization of the society its meetings were held in the South schoolhouse, but in April, 1864, it began to hold its meetings in Florence hall and chapel, which were rooms made for their special use in the new schoolhouse which Mr. S. L. Hill had just built for the use of Warner school district, and to which he gave the property, reserving, in his gift of the building, the two rooms above mentioned, and a third room for a library and reading room, for a term of ten years. The use of these three rooms, which occupied the whole of the second story of the present school building, he gave to the society for its use, for the time he controlled them.



PROSCENIUM ARCH—COSMIAN HALL.

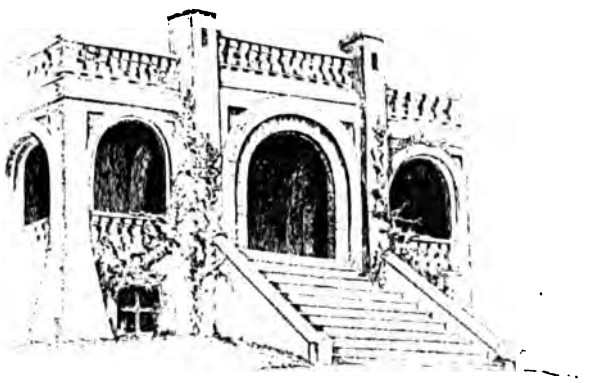
Near the expiration of this ten years, all the rooms in the building being required for the increasing size and number of the schools in the village, it was decided to build a hall, not only adequate for all the uses of the society, for its Sunday services, Sunday-school, and social gatherings, but of a capacity and design suitable for all general public meetings liable to be called for in a village of the size, enterprise, and public spirit of Florence. The result is Cosmian Hall, a noble edifice, built in a commanding location, with ample arrangements for the general uses of the public in its main hall, with a seating capacity of nearly seven hundred, with large stage and abundant stage appointments, including organ and grand piano. This hall has been opened on all occasions of general public interest, celebrations, and anniversaries, for the people's use, without any expense to them or the town.

Cosmian Hall was dedicated in 1874, and cost about forty thousand dollars,—Mr. S. L. Hill contributing much the larger part, Mr. A. T. Lilly, about ten thousand dollars, and the balance by subscription in the society. In 1893, a platform for the choir was built to the right of the

stage, and the capacity of the organ was nearly doubled. The lower story contains lower Cosmian Hall, and connecting recitation rooms for use of Sunday-school and other purposes, also double parlors, with adjoining kitchen accommodations for use of the Industrial Union.

For some years previous to the organization of the society, Mr. C. C. Burleigh was a regular lecturer, supported by private enterprise, and he remained the resident speaker after its organization, for ten years. Miss Elizabeth M. Powell, now Mrs. Elizabeth Powell Bond, officiated as assistant in 1871 and 1872, succeeded by Mr. Roland Connor in the last named year, until Mr. Burleigh resigned in 1873, when Mr. Connor became resident speaker for one year. David H. Clark was resident speaker for three years, to 1878. Mr. W. H. Spencer and Mrs. Anna Garland Spencer jointly held the office from 1881 to 1884, Mrs. Elizabeth Powell Bond from 1884 to 1886, and Rev. F. A. Hinckley has been the minister since September first, 1888.

During various times, in which the society has not had a regular minister, the desk has been supplied by some of the best speakers from the liberal and reform ranks, among others: Theodore D. Weld, A. Bronson Alcott, Samuel Longfellow, Frederick Douglass, William Lloyd Garrison, Ralph Waldo Emerson, John W. Chadwick, Felix Adler, and George W. Cable; the design being to secure the representation of all phases of sincere thought on moral and religious subjects.



ENTRANCE TO COSMIAN HALL.

The position of the society cannot be better stated than from an extract from its executive committees' reports. "This society believes that in this free interchange of thought and ideas, and in the hospitality that is willing to listen to diverse religious theories, is the surest promise of the truth that maketh free, which Lord Bacon pronounces 'the sovereign good of human nature.'"

The minister is not, like the minister or pastor of most religious societies, pledged to advocate and defend a formal statement of faith. He is under no intellectual bonds. He is at liberty to express freely his latest thought, and it is understood he speaks only for himself.

From the first organization of the society the Sunday-school has been sustained with success and usefulness, as a very important branch of the work of the society. It is held in the forenoon of each Sunday, and is opened with singing and responsive reading, followed, first, by class work, and then by general exercises, including a talk by the superintendent. There are at present classes in the study of the life of Jesus, the life and work of Paul, and a class of adults in the economic and moral bearings of political economy. The little folks, of whom there are three classes, receive moral instruction by means of illustrated cards.

A very useful adjunct to the society is the Ladies' Industrial Union, composed of the ladies of the society and others, who, during the winter, hold semi-monthly afternoon meetings in the parlors, doing such work in the line of sewing as is presented, and afterwards in providing a supper for such members of the society as care to attend, followed by a social evening, which may include dancing. The Union yearly turns into the general expense fund some hundreds of dollars as the result of their work.

One of the first works of the society after its organization was the establishment of a free public library and reading room, in one of the rooms provided by Mr. Hill's liberality for that purpose. Subscriptions of books were liberally made by the members of the society, Mr. Hill buying hundreds of volumes for the purpose, and a good library and reading room was maintained by the society for the general public, for several years ; eventually laying the foundation of the present Florence branch of the public library.

The Free Congregational Society of Florence was one of the first religious bodies to organize on a platform of entire free thought and free speech. It may not be amiss to state here that the two largest contributors and active supporters of this society have not confined their benefactions to it exclusively, but have devised their property so all the people of the village are receiving the benefit of it : Mr. S. L. Hill in the building and gift to the village of the fine large schoolhouse and later by his endowment of the kindergarten, and Mr. A. T. Lilly by his gift of the Lilly Library, and five thousand dollars for books for the use of the village, and his large estate to the trustees of the Florence kindergarten, to be used for educational purposes.

EDUCATIONAL HISTORY.

THE FLORENCE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

By William D. Miller.

Until 1866 Northampton was divided into school districts. The town, in town meeting assembled, elected a general committee of six who had the general oversight of the schools. Each district had a complete organization of its own, built and took charge of its buildings and hired its teachers. The chief executive officer was a prudential committee. The town raised a certain amount of money for the support of the schools, and divided it among the districts, which raised any additional amount required by direct tax upon the inhabitants of the district, or by subscription. The district including Florence was called the "Warner district." Leeds was known as "Rail Hill district."



THE SECOND SCHOOLHOUSE IN THE "WARNER DISTRICT."

The earliest written record that can be found begins with the year 1845, but the printed town reports date back to 1838. The first schoolhouse in the Warner district was a one-room, wooden building on North Main street, in the southeast corner of the farm now owned by Mr. John F. Warner, and near Mr. J. L. Campbell's house. Traces of its foundation can still be found near a large maple tree.

Sometime between 1825 and 1830, the voters in the eastern part of the district outnumbered those in the western part, and the schoolhouse was moved to what is now the center of the village, and located on the corner of Park and Meadow streets, near the cemetery. This caused so much dissatisfaction in the western part that a school was for some time maintained by the Warner families in their houses, at their own expense,

and later a schoolhouse was built by them on the corner of North Main street and Bridge road, the foundation of which still remains. So far as is known, the town did not aid in the support of this school. The building was afterwards moved to the east side of Park street, and is now the first house south of the late Mr. A. W. Shumway's.

Under date of February sixth, 1846, the following is found in the district record book :—

"*Voted*, To build a schoolhouse the coming season, by unanimous vote.

"*Voted*, To build a one-story house.

"*Voted*, That individuals by subscription can have the privilege of putting on an additional story if there be money enough raised by subscription to defray the expense of the same.

"*Voted*, That it be at or near the place where the old schoolhouse now stands."

The "old schoolhouse" mentioned was the one that had been moved from North Main street and placed on the corner of Park and Meadow streets. This house was sold to Nathan Olney for twenty-six dollars, and moved to the corner where the Methodist church now stands. When this church was built, the house was moved a few rods to the south, and now forms a part of the house occupied by Mr. Austin Allis. It appears that individuals did not take advantage of the privilege offered them of putting on an additional story, as a one-story brick building was erected at a total cost of $487.82, which building now forms the lower story of the building occupied by Messrs. Howard & Rice. This was afterwards known as the "North schoolhouse."

The first account entered in the record book shows the expenses of the district for the year 1845-6 to have been $94.45. The next year the expenses were $148.74, the teacher receiving $2.50 a week, and the district paying $1.25 a week for her board. An item showing the cost of wood at that time is — "One half cord hard wood, $1.25." Another, showing the price paid for labor,— "For sawing and splitting two cords wood, $1.00."

April thirtieth, 1845, a committee was appointed to see about the expenses of a new schoolhouse or an addition to the old one. This committee recommended building a new schoolhouse. The report was adopted and a building committee appointed, which built a one story brick building near the northeast corner of the present High school building at a total cost of $774.15. Mr. Hill furnished seats and outline maps at his own expense. This was known as the South schoolhouse.

Besides the main room there was a small square addition opening into it, which was known as the stove room, and contained a large box stove, designed to warm the larger room. One who was there says it

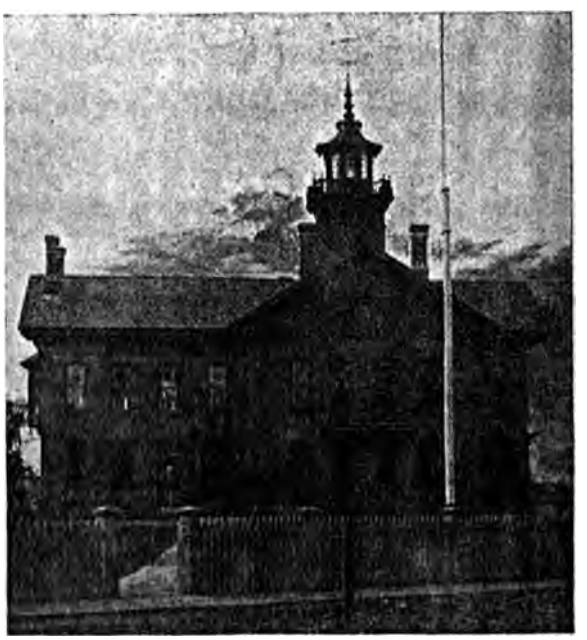
often was so cold in the main room that the pupils took turns in going into the stove room to get warm.

One winter a man was hired to teach geography by singing the names of capitals, capes, etc., to popular tunes. The following was a verse sung to the tune of Yankee Doodle :—

"Mr. Brewster went one day
From Cape North to Gloucester Bay,
To bid Farewell to a certain man
Whose name was Mr. Walsingham."

The whole school sung while one pupil pointed out the places on the map as they were named.

At this time there was no public building in Florence and the schoolhouse was used as a public hall and for religious services.



HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING.

The space between the teacher's desk and the seats was utilized for dances, the gentlemen paying three cents apiece for the services of a violinist.

The ground in front of the schoolhouse, which is now occupied by the Congregational church and chapel, was covered with a thick growth of pine trees, through which a footpath led to the schoolhouse. The present school yard was used as a lumber yard for the mill below, and there is a tradition that one of the committee from Northampton, a good old doctor, while trying to guide his sleigh among the logs to the schoolhouse, tipped over, much to the amusement of the boys ; but this accident did not prevent his going to sleep in the warm schoolroom and sleeping through his entire visit.

Concerning the school grounds, the following report of a committee in 1855 is given :—

"In the school yards we behold a barren waste in regard to which the public appear to take no other interest than in making it a common wood and lumber yard. Catching their inspiration by means of such influences from without, added to the gloom, monotony, and too often uninteresting performances within, we need not wonder if the children consider the schoolhouse as an old Bastile and show their utter contempt for the whole system by cutting up the benches and throwing stones at the windows."

About the same time the committee passed the following vote :—

"*Voted*, That the prudential committee be authorized to notify the parents of children to visit the school each week, two from each family."

The record does not state whether this plan was carried out by the people of the district. The younger pupils went to the North schoolhouse, the older or more advanced to the South. A sweeping list was kept and the pupils took turns in sweeping the rooms.

In 1860 the annual expense had risen to four hundred and fifty-three dollars. In the winter of 1859–60, D. W. Bond taught sixteen weeks for five dollars a week. At this time (1860), it was voted to sell the North schoolhouse and build a new one near the South schoolhouse, and a committee appointed to prepare plans and estimates reported that a substantial two story brick building thirty-four by sixty feet could be built for four thousand dollars, and recommended that both schoolhouses be sold and the proceeds put into a new one. No action was taken until 1862, when Mr. S. L. Hill offered to raise by subscription such a sum as, added to the proceeds from the sale of the old buildings, would make up one thousand five hundred dollars, on condition that the district raise one thousand dollars by direct tax, and the town appropriate one thousand five hundred dollars. This the town refused to do, and the district voted to postpone the matter indefinitely.



OLD PINES, NEAR SCHOOLHOUSE, IN 1875.

In 1863 Mr. Hill offered to build a schoolhouse himself if the district would raise two thousand dollars by direct tax and give him both the old buildings, he to retain the use of the second story for ten years, after which time the whole building should be used for school purposes. The offer was accepted, and Mr. Hill built the present schoolhouse at a cost of over thirty-three thousand dollars above the amount raised by the district. At a district meeting held March 21, 1865, a resolution was passed which expressed in the strongest terms the gratitude of the people for this splendid gift.



PINE STREET SCHOOLHOUSE.

The name of the district was changed to Florence in 1865, and in 1866 the district system was abolished and the present system adopted. As the school buildings of the Florence district were worth more than the buildings in the other districts, upon taking possession of the school property the town paid the Florence district a certain amount of money, which was paid by making a pro rata reduction in the taxes for that year of the inhabitants of the district.

Mr. Hill believed that a superintendent of schools was necessary, and in 1868 offered to pay five hundred dollars towards the salary of one, if the town would pay the balance. The offer was accepted, and the five hundred dollars paid by Mr. Hill for four years.

The introduction of music into the public schools met with much opposition, and in 1868 Mr. Williston and Mr. Hill hired Mr. Henry Jones to teach music in the schools, as an experiment. He was afterward hired by the town. The Free Congregational Society moved to Cosmian Hall in 1874, and Mr. Hill surrendered the entire building to the use of the schools. The second story has been divided into rooms and the heating arrangements altered ; otherwise, very little change has been made since that time.

A list of the principals of the Florence schools : Miss Mary Bond, appointed 1865 ; Miss Chiara A. Curtis (Plimpton), 1868 ; Miss Susie L. Leach, 1870 ; Miss Mary E. Hester, 1874 ; Miss Sarah A. Hunt, 1875 ; Mr. Asa B. Copeland, 1876 ; Mr. Charles S. Palmer, 1880 ; Mr. W. F. Nichols, 1881 ; Mr. W. M. Green, 1882 ; Mr. George A. Hoadley, 1883 ; Mr. William D. Miller, 1886.

THE KINDERGARTEN.

One of the institutions which has given to Florence a more than local fame is the kindergarten. Established in 1876, it was one of the pioneer institutions of the kind in the country. At a time when in our large cities such an institution existed only for the favored few, the children of wealth, and occasionally in connection with mission work for the very poor, the little village of Florence enjoyed the distinction of having a well equipped kindergarten which was thoroughly democratic, knowing no high and no low, no rich and no poor.

In 1884–86 Mrs. Leland Stanford opened, in San Francisco, six kindergartens as memorials of her beloved son, Leland Stanford, Jr., but it was not until 1891 that they were endowed, so that up to that time the Florence institution was probably the only endowed kindergarten in the country. It is still one of the few kindergartens with a building of its own, planned with special reference to its needs, and having spacious lawn and playgrounds.

To speak of the Florence kindergarten is to be reminded of Samuel L. Hill, whose generous benefaction to the village it is, and whose memorial it will long remain. It is impossible to estimate the value of such an institution to a community. There is striking testimony to the value of kindergarten training in a recent report of the Golden Gate Kindergarten Association of San Francisco. After most careful investigation, they fail to find among the juvenile offenders of that city the names of any of the thousands who have been connected with the kindergartens, and this in face of the fact that the kindergartens are located in the districts which are the hotbeds of vice. The conditions are very different here ; the children generally come from orderly homes, and yet it is not necessary to be much upon our streets to realize that here as elsewhere there is great need of an elevation of moral sentiment, and in this direction the kindergarten is a vital force.

From the early days of Florence, Mr. Hill was deeply interested in all efforts for the mental and moral advancement of its people, supplying from his own means needed appliances for the schools, special teachers, and even a school building. After his retirement from active business, he gave much thought to educational problems, and pondered deeply the question how best to help the youth of Florence to true and noble manhood and womanhood. The more he pondered the subject, the stronger grew his conviction that "the seed sown in life's early springtime takes deepest root." In those days, Elizabeth P. Peabody was one of the few enthusiastic preachers of the kindergarten idea, and to her Mr. Hill went for counsel. At his solicitation she came to Florence, and

in a lecture at Cosmian Hall set forth the Froebelian philosophy. Whatever may have been the effect upon the minds of the majority of her hearers, Mr. Hill, whose mind, by long consideration of the subject, was prepared to apprehend the truth that was in her discourse, decided to make trial of this new educational idea, and, with his usual promptness, he set about perfecting the necessary arrangements. A few weeks later, in January, 1876, he opened in the parlors of his own house a kindergarten. A brief trial was sufficient to convince him that he had made



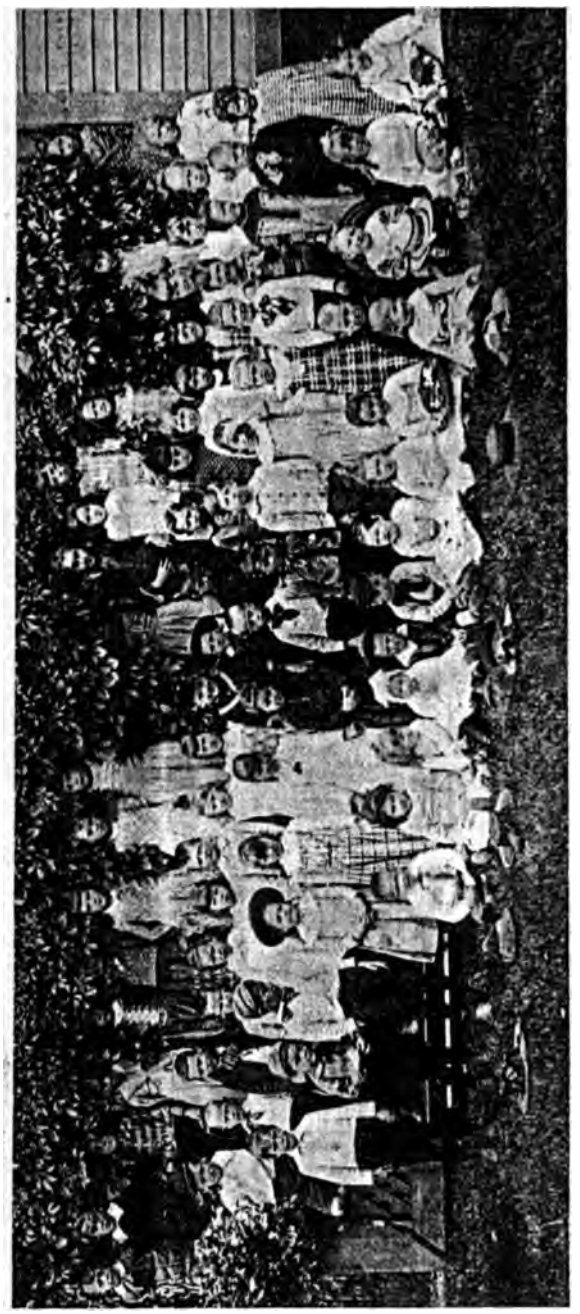
FLORENCE KINDERGARTEN.

no mistake and plans were made for a permanent home for the institution.

Meantime the numbers, fifteen at first, increased beyond the limits of his parlors, and for a short time, pending the completion of the new building, the sessions were held in lower Cosmian Hall. In December, 1876, the building was ready for occupancy, and there the children gathered about their first kindergarten Christmas tree, laden with the simple gifts which they had prepared for their friends.

The growth of the kindergarten has been slow but steady. There was at first a strong prejudice against it, in the minds of many, because it was supposed to be a place where the children were allowed "to do as they pleased," but this prejudice gradually vanished as it came to be recognized that they did as they pleased because they pleased to do right.

The building erected was supposed to be sufficient for all possibility



GROUP OF KINDERGARTEN CHILDREN.

of growth, but notwithstanding some additions have been made, it is now, 1894, fairly outgrown, one hundred and twenty children having been together for the morning exercises on many a day of the past year, and while in the beginning two kindergartners were sufficient, eight or nine are now employed.

In addition to the regular kindergarten classes, there is a connecting class, for advanced kindergarten and primary work, where the children are prepared to enter the second year of the public school. Sessions are from 9 A. M. to 12 M. Visitors are welcome at all times.

With characteristic breadth of view Mr. Hill desired that the advantages of the kindergarten should be open to every child in Florence ; at the same time he believed that that is more highly valued for which some sacrifice is made, and he framed his statement of terms to meet both these re-

quirements: "Parents and guardians whose children attend shall be required to pay at the close of each term, such sum as each can afford or is disposed to pay."

Increasing ill health made it expedient for Mr. Hill to leave home immediately after the completion of the building; he therefore appointed a board of trustees to aid in the management and direction of the kindergarten. The following passage occurs in his letter of appointment:—

"The object of the institution being, as you are aware, to promote a healthy physical, intellectual, and moral development of young children, * * * therefore, in order that the advantages of the institution may be acceptably extended to the people of the village generally, it is hereby made a condition of its direction and management that it shall be conducted unmixed with any ecclesiastical or theological exercises."

By his will, he gave to the trustees property in trust, for the maintenance of the kindergarten so long as it should seem to them expedient. In 1884, by special act of the Legislature, the trustees were made a corporation under the title, "Trustees of the Florence Kindergarten."

Although so greatly interested in the kindergarten, Mr. Hill was never a visitor there. While it was in his own house, he sometimes looked in at the open door, but the sight of so many children always touched him, and he lingered but a moment. He was never happier, however, than in listening to kindergarteners' reports of the proceedings, and of the wise or quaint remarks of the youthful recipients of his fostering care.

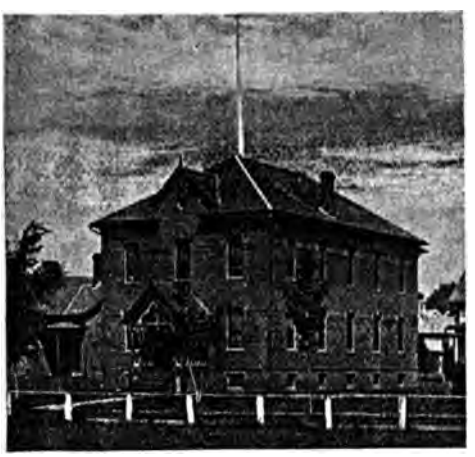
Upon the kindergarten wall hangs a fine crayon portrait of Mr. Hill. On a certain day of each year, the children bring flowers to place before the portrait, and sing songs of gratitude in memory of their benefactor, whose name will be associated in their hearts with that of another friend and benefactor of children, Friedrich Froebel.

MANUAL TRAINING.

By Rev. Frederic A. Hinckley.

Northampton enjoys the distinction of being the first place in the country to adopt on a systematic basis the principle of manual training in its public schools of the Primary and Grammar grades. For somewhat over two years the system which now bears the name of our city has been in operation here, and it has become an integral part of our school work. It was first adopted experimentally in the schools of Florence, and the enthusiasm of Florence teachers and pupils was among the earliest factors in its success. It had long been the desire of educa-

tors that something should be done to bridge over the chasm between the hand work of the kindergarten and the shop work of manual training schools of the High school grade. Our system does just that, on a basis at once thorough, economical, and entirely American in its spirit and methods. The material used is basswood and soft pine, the tools are pencil, rule, jackknife, compasses, small hammer, screw-driver, gimlet, gauge, and try-square, and the work is all done in the schoolroom and administered by the regular teacher. As will be seen, the jackknife is the only cutting tool, and, so far as it is concerned, the work is divided into three sections, line cutting, surface cutting, and cutting of solids. Fifty-one blue print plates have been prepared which furnish working drawings of the entire course. About one thousand six hundred children are now taking the course in two periods each week, of thirty minutes each. The annual cost to the city is about six hundred dollars, which sum is spent for material and tools. All the work is dictated by the teacher, and drawing is made a fundamental preliminary to cutting. At every stage the element of original design is introduced and proves a most valuable and attractive feature to children of all ages.



TEMPERANCE HALL, PINE STREET.

Among the many advantages of this kind of training in our public schools are these :—

1. It furnishes a new channel of expression, appealing with special benefit to those who do not find what they most need in abstract mental processes.

2. It teaches accuracy of the mind in listening to the dictation ; accuracy of the eye in observation ; accuracy of the hand in execution.

3. Through the formation of habits of accuracy in these ways, it promotes general accuracy of thought and conduct.

4. It offers the fullest possible realization of object teaching by associating thoughts and things ; the abstract with the concrete.

5. It appeals to the average child and commands the interest of the worker without the temptation of rewards of merit on the one hand, or the push of compulsion on the other.

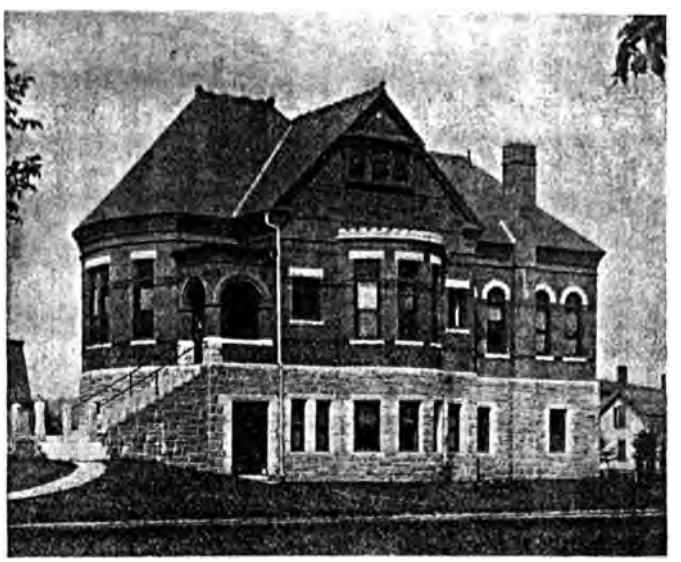
To sum it all up, I may say with Mr. George W. Cable, after he had carefully examined our last public exhibit :—

"Manual training can be made in our public schools as materially profitable as arithmetic and as spiritually refining as music."

THE FLORENCE LYCEUM.

By Judge Daniel W. Bond.

No history of Florence would be complete without an account of the Florence Lyceum. It was not uncommon at this period, during the winter months, for nearly every school district to have its debating



LILLY LIBRARY.

society. Everybody attended, and the old men and young took part in the exercises. Some districts were more favored than others with resident debaters, but every district contained some who had ideas upon the various questions discussed and were sufficiently interested to prepare themselves for the debates, and who could express their thoughts with force and oftentimes with elegance. After the debate by the debaters who had selected, or been appointed upon, the affirmative or negative of a question, an opportunity was given for "volunteers." The time from seven to ten and sometimes till eleven o'clock was occupied. For days

after the meetings they were the topic of conversation throughout the district,—the weight of the argument, the methods and manners of the speakers, the merits of the question, all came in for a share of attention and were talked over. No old time singing school could "hold a candle" to the village lyceum, for the general interest the meetings created.

Florence was one of the localities that were fortunate in having a number of men who could take their part in a lyceum debate during the palmy days of its lyceum. Generally a declamation was given by some young man; frequently a young lady read a selection from a standard author; a paper was prepared, made up of articles written by people, young and old, which its editor read at the meeting. After the paper was read, the debate took place, and usually the exercises were enlivened with some excellent singing by the Glee Club.

The meetings were held in the South schoolhouse, which was "packed,"—every seat was occupied, and all available standing room in the building, including the entries, was crowded. The fact that the people gathered to such an extent one evening in each week during the winter shows the great interest taken in the meetings.

The Florence Lyceum differed from others at this time in one respect. From the days of "the Community" established there, the village contained men who held various opinions upon social and religious subjects. In the Florence Lyceum, to avoid injuring the feelings of anyone, no religious questions were discussed, and it was an unwritten law that nothing should be said in debate which could wound the feelings of the orthodox people upon religious subjects, and this law was rarely violated.

The men who took part in the debates in the Florence Lyceum were all engaged in business, and their time and strength must have been greatly exhausted in their special callings. None of them were "professional" men; at that time there was no doctor, lawyer, or clergyman living in the village.

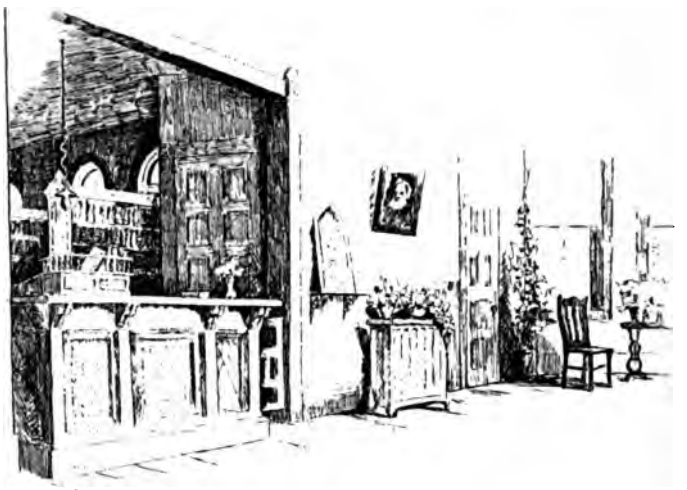
Joseph B. Whitehouse was prominent among the men who could always be depended upon to take part in the debates. He was a very pleasant speaker, his manner was deliberate, his sentences were well formed, and his remarks were always interesting.

Deacon Julius Phelps was among the older men who took part in the debates. He was not what would be termed a brilliant debater, but he clothed his thoughts in well chosen words, expressed himself clearly, logically, and without any attempt at display. Whenever he took part he said something; his remarks did not consist in mere words.

D. G. Littlefield then lived in the village, and was another of the older men who took part in the meetings, although not as generally as some others. He was a man with clear, well defined ideas; his suggestions

were always practical and to the point ; his manner was unusually good ; tall, erect, and dignified in his bearing, earnest in his manner, with a good voice, his remarks always received attention.

Morris Machol was probably the best educated member of the lyceum. His German accent and imperfect English made it more difficult to follow him, but he was a good debater, and always received close attention. He made no attempt at rhetoric or eloquence, his whole aim seemed to be to present arguments, and this he did with great force, clearness, and apparent ease.



INTERIOR LILLY LIBRARY.

Leavitt Beals probably enjoyed the debates more than any other member. He had considerable of what would be called natural eloquence ; he seemed much interested in the questions debated, and apparently took great pains to prepare himself for his part ; he would probably be called the most eloquent debater in the lyceum.

James Flood was always prepared to debate, give a declamation, or take part in the presentation of a play—comedy or tragedy. He was Hamlet in the ghost scene, and his rendering of the declaration : "Whither wilt thou lead me ? Speak ! I'll go no further," was enough to bring any ordinary ghost to a standstill, and to be long remembered by the audience. He was a great lover of eloquence and oratorical display, and seemed to cultivate this tendency ; nothing apparently suited him better than to express some bit of history in a style which would have done credit to a Fourth of July orator of "ye olden time."

E. V. Foster was another member of the lyceum. While he did not take so prominent a part in the debates as others, he was one of the leaders in the dramatic exercises. His "Claude," in the "Lady of Lyons," will be remembered by all who ever heard it. The cheap print of the fair "Pauline," which he exhibited, while it did not do him much

credit as an artist, gave him an opportunity to "play his part." His ghost to Flood's Hamlet sent the cold chills over at least the younger portion of the audience.

A. T. Lilly was a prominent member of the lyceum. He was a frequent contributor to the paper. Few men could express themselves so clearly, logically, and forcibly upon their feet, in the presence of an audience, as he could, and when in earnest he exhibited much natural eloquence.

William Bonney was one of the younger members. He was considered a talented young man, and displayed much ability as a public speaker.

Edward Birge was another of the younger members, who frequently



FROM COSMIAN TOWER—SOUTHEAST.

wrote for the paper, was its editor a part of the time, and frequently took part in the debates. He was also the leader of the Glee Club. He was regarded as a strong, capable man. While he made no attempt at display, he possessed good sense, was well informed, and had considerable literary ability.

There were others who took part in the debates, but who were less prominent than those named. The Florence of that period was not the Florence of to-day. Considering the number of inhabitants in the village, and the opportunities for mental culture, the character of the Florence Lyceum compared favorably with that of any other place, and undoubtedly was instrumental in fostering the spirit of inquiry and love of literature which exist in the village at the present time.

HISTORIC REMINISCENCES.

FLORENCE.

By Mrs. Helen T. Clark, Northumberland, Penn.

The hunted slave whose dusky, trembling form
Sank at your sheltering doors for one brief night,
Ne'er touched a fairer foothold in his flight
To lands where Freedom dwelt with northern storm.

Helpers of man! The child of poverty
May rise, despair may hope, the dull may learn,
The wavering torch of genius brighter burn,
Where thought magnetic flows in impulse free.

Seekers for truth! who deem that every soul
Should have its perfect meed of growth and light—
Not statelier than your Temple reared for Right
Rose classic fane where waves Ægean roll!

Dear, honored dead,* who wrought for brotherhood,
In golden deeds, in words of deathless power,
Not vainly did ye live your "crowded hour,"
And pour your souls out for the wide world's good!

Bright homes of thrift! strong hearts and kindling eyes
Wherein the spirit of the Future thrills—
Encircled by your blue, eternal hills,
Draw strength and life from blue, eternal skies!

THE "UNDERGROUND RAILWAY."

By Joseph Marsh.

A complete history of the underground railway in Florence will never be known. Those who ran it upon the principles of the brotherhood of man did so at their peril. It is not strange that some, moving within and being a part of the influence and inspiration of the communistic spirit of Florence, should abhor slavery. Most of them had

*S. L. Hill, A. T. Lilly, Charles C. Burleigh, Mary W. Bond and others.

thrown off the bondage of superstition, and had peculiar sympathy with those who were trying to free themselves.

One of the stations on the underground railroad was kept by Samuel L. Hill. Be sure if anything of this kind was going on he would have a hand in it. The account of it is best related by his son in his own words.

FLORENCE, MASS., January 31, 1893.

Dear Mr. Marsh,—

Although I saw a good many passengers who were on the underground railway, bound north, I remember few of the incidents that occurred. A good many passengers stopped "five minutes for refreshments" at my father's, and conductors were often changed here. On a few trips I was either conductor or assistant conductor. Quite a number of the through passengers temporarily took up their abode in Florence, the balmy anti-slavery climate here proving very attractive to them. After the forced return of Anthony Burns from Boston to the Southern tyrants, the sojourners here became alarmed and pushed on to their original destination, Canada. Father Henson, one of the originals that furnished particulars for Harriet Beecher Stowe's "Uncle Tom," came by this line on one of his trips to Canada. I think that it was not his first trip, but that he had been south again after some of his friends.

William Wilson was landed here, remained a few months, worked and earned some money, returned south secretly, was gone quite a while, but finally reached here again with a grown-up son, that he had been able to guide from slavery to freedom. The two men hired a small tenement, were industrious, and worked for an object. After they had saved money enough they went south to rescue their daughter and sister. After a long absence the younger man returned, the older one having been captured and returned to slavery. The younger was confident that his father would again escape and decided to wait for him here. Sure enough, in a little while the old gentleman and daughter came, and after a short stay to rest and get a little money the whole party moved north to the queen's dominions.

Many of the refugees, who were intelligent enough, became the talking centers for our neighbors and sympathizers to gather around. I heard many a thrilling story of brutality, suffering, and exciting adventures in the "leap for freedom." Father's most frequent trip as conductor ran to the Kingman's in Cummington, but occasionally our living freight was delivered at a Mr. Crafts' house in Whately.

Sincerely yours,

ARTHUR G. HILL.

David Ruggles, a colored man who had edited a paper in New York city called *The Mirror*, kept another station. On account of his activity there in conducting the underground railroad, he was roughly handled, but was protected by the Tappans. Broken down in health, and suffering a partial loss of eyesight, he came to Florence, and, by a skillful home treatment upon hydropathic principles, he regained his health in

good measure, but not his eyesight. Rumor has made him the successful conductor of many fugitives to a land of freedom. On one occasion, Mr. Seth Hunt and David Ruggles induced Sheriff Ansel Wright, Sr., to bring a slaveholder and a slave girl, whom he had brought into Northampton, before Judge Charles A. Dewey. The judge gave the woman to understand that having been brought by her master into a free state, she was at liberty to leave him if she chose. Through fear of her master, she declined to leave him. The sheriff incurred, in consequence, quite offensive threats from the slaveholder.

Another station was kept by Mr. Austin Ross, who harbored a young man about a year and a half in one of his chambers, employment being furnished him as a night watchman at Greenville cotton mill. His name was Wilson, and he must have been the same man whom Mr. Hill describes. Mr. Calvin Fairbanks, who for several years was a citizen of Florence, was one of the heroes of this underground railroad, although the scene of his exploits was not in this region. He was the means of securing freedom to forty-seven slaves.



RESIDENCE OF REV. E. G. COBB.

Among the active workers on this railroad was Mr. A. P. Critchlow. He acted in concert with Mr. Hill, Mr. Hammond, and others, and frequently gave the fugitives employment in his daguerreotype case factory. Here he did what he could to shield them and prevent recapture, and one case may not be amiss to record. A slave named French made good his escape, and sought rest in Florence. His master, or master's half brother, a Mr. King, came to the water cure while in pursuit of the runaway. Mr. Critchlow stayed with French a few nights at the mill until King, being unable to find any trace of the slave, left Florence to seek him elsewhere.

The details of the assistance rendered by Florence citizens to that unfortunate race in their flight for freedom will never be recorded, but enough is given here to show that Florence was not behind in this good work.

THE FLORENCE DRAMATIC CLUB.

By Arthur G. Hill.

Among the many institutions of Florence worthy of notice is the Dramatic Club, an organization dating back many years, and showing a record that few amateur theatrical associations can rival. While the tragedies of Shakespeare have not been essayed, and the terpsichorean and nude drama have been across the other border, the range over which the talent of this club has successfully roamed for over a quarter of a century has been so extensive that the individual members of the club have nearly as great a reputation, locally, as the leading actors who have amused and startled the continent during the same period of time.

During the war of the rebellion, enacted in the years 1861–1865, a live, wide awake Soldiers' Aid Society was maintained here by the loyal, generous hearted women of the village, which received and forwarded the many contributions of clothing, delicacies, comforts, and money to the valiant men at the battle front.

Many entertainments were presented in private houses, small halls, the little old South schoolhouse, and, upon its completion, in the Florence Hall, which existed for a time in the so-called high school building here. The money received by the young people for these exhibitions was used to good effect by the Soldiers' Aid Society in the performance of its mission.

Bare walls were the only scenic effects of the first dramas, and the costumes were very crude. The first beard was made from a portion of an old buffalo robe, or formed by a smudge of the easily obtained burnt bottle cork. The first wig, though not the hollowed out half of a water melon, was nearly as startling, being silk waste sewed on cotton cloth, and dipped into a dye vat, which, upon that occasion, held magenta colored dye. A dirty lipped youth then passed for a Romeo, and a magenta pated comedian was the omnipresent Irishman with his carefully planned and clumsily executed blunders.



SOUTH MAIN STREET.

A. T. Lilly, E. C. Gardner, and Mrs. F. P. Judd, each wrote little plays which were early placed on the boards. The first real theater plays brought out were the two farces "Box and Cox," and "The Two Buzzards." James J. Kennedy, George T. Cutler, and Arthur G. Hill were the actors in the first one, and the same youths, with Miss Kate B. Judd and Miss Carrie Tayntor, appeared in "The Two Buzzards."

Soon after, the Florence Dramatic Club, with regular board of officers, stage manager, constitution, and by-laws, was regularly launched to prey upon a guileless public. To prevent dissensions so likely to occur in large membership, the club was limited to ten gentlemen as members, with such ladies as should accept invitations to assume characters in the dramas. Any lady having once acted with the club was thenceforth a member as long as she chose to be so considered.



THE NOTCH—CHESTNUT STREET WOODS.

C. C. Burleigh, Jr., one of the members, became noted as a painter, and died abroad while perfecting himself in the art. The beautiful scenery of the club, and the fine frescoing of Cosmian Hall were the work of his brush. Eugene W. Presby, a member, has been for years a stage manager of the Madison Square Theater of New York. W. L. Wilcox has never appeared on the stage, but his faithful work in many other directions has made him a valuable member.

In nearly every drama, it became necessary, to fill all the characters, to have minor parts filled by others not members of the club. These, however, were not considered as members, and had no voice in the management. Occasionally, as a vacancy occurred in the list, one of these assistant actors who showed talent would be promoted to membership. In no case did an actor receive a cent for his services, but all cash receipts were devoted to charitable objects, or for better scenery, or outfit for the club. Only the legitimate drama received the attention of the club, and this was put upon the stage with all the care and attention to minor details that the experience of the manager and his assistants could suggest. The scenic effects were constantly improved upon as the club grew in experience, and many a scene received a round of applause from an appreciative audience for the evident care of its preparation.

The two entertainments, "The Two Buzzards" and "Eileen Oge,"

of this club mark the two extremes of bare walls in the first to the exquisite landscapes with waterfalls and fountains of real water in the latter, as great a contrast as the barnstorming plays of old England and the "pump and real water" of "Vincent Crummles."

The initials, F. D. C., at the top of the posters was an assurance of a good entertainment, and an election to the corps of actors was always considered an honor, and one never declined in a single instance. The following were prominent actors, appearing frequently in the dramas: George T. Cutler, George A. Jencks, Joseph C. Martin, Henry H. Bond, Maria L. Bond, William L. Norton, Fred C. Shearn, Arthur G. Hill, Walter S. Jencks, Sarah E. Jencks, Emma Jencks, Kate B. Judd, Kate E. Hill, Julia A. Bartlett, Carrie Haggert, Dwight A. Ross, O. M. Smith, Nannie M. Worth, Josie Ridlon, and Lucy D. Cleveland.


F. D. C.

COSMIAN HALL

FLORENCE,

WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY EVENINGS,

Jan. 20th & 21st, 1875.

Sheridan's Comedy,

School FOR Scandal

CHARACTERS.

Act. 1st, Lady Sneerwell's Parlor.
" 2d, Sir Peter's Parlor.
" 3d, Picture Gallery at Chas. Surface
" 4th, Joseph Surface's Library.
" 5th, Sir Peter's Parlor.

The Costumes are the ones used at the recent revival of the play at the Boston Museum.

Tickets, with Reserved Seats, 35 Cents.

Doors open at 7 o'clock. Entertainment commences at 7 1-2.

F. D. C. HANDBILL.

The most noted production of the club was probably "The School for Scandal," with the beautiful Boston Museum costumes adorning the actors. In this play, the talented Henry H. Bond and sister appeared as "Sir Peter" and "Lady Teazle"; E. H. Martin and George T. Cutler enacted the characters of "Charles" and "Joseph Surface," and Mrs. Kate E. Hill well portrayed the gossipy "Mrs. Candor."

Other well executed presentations of the club were: "She Stoops to Conquer," "The Golden Farmer," "The Country Squire," "The Drummer Boy" (with the Northampton Grand Army Post), "Eileen Oge," "The Golden Fetter," "Rose of Ettrickvale," "Peep O' Day Boys," "The Ticket of Leave Man," "Caste," "Heir at Law," and "School." Many other dramas have been produced by the club, but the above were especially fine entertainments.

Pleasant interchanges have from time to time been made with the P Q R S T Club of Northampton, the Easthampton Dramatic Club, and the Casino Dramatic Club of Brightwood.

When Cosmian Hall was built, the construction of the stage and its equipment were placed in the hands of members of this club, who visited several theaters and adopted what they considered the best arrangements then in use. The Grand Army and other local organizations have frequently drawn upon the Florence Dramatic Club for talent in the various entertainments, and much of the success upon those occasions was due to the borrowed talent. The club still has an existence, and still hopes again to send forth its F. D. C. posters, its heralds, summoning its many friends to the gatherings where the "mimic world" is portrayed by amateurs who faithfully study to please and instruct.

THE SEWING MACHINE BAND.

By Edward Birge.

"Sometimes as one who almost grieves,
His memory would recall
The merrymaking Christmas eves,
The frolic, and the ball;
Till his hands would shake like withered leaves,
And his pipe go out and fall."

—Alice Cary.

The "Florence Serenaders" served the music lovers of the village many years. The dear old friends who "tripped the light fantastic" at their playing, or listened to their voices or violins in the calm moonlight, lovingly recall Sylvester Bosworth, Charles Strong, Nathan Vance, Edson S. Ross, Henry Bottum, Elisha Jenney, George Graves, and Otis Moody.

At the revival of trade and business after the great financial panic of 1857, a young man came to Florence from the old homestead in Hatfield. He was immediately surrounded by a prominent "Serenader," who told him that Godfrey's boarding house was once more established on a firm

basis, that the "winders" and "doublers" in the Nonotuck mill were rapidly increasing, that something must be done, and now, under the circumstances, what would he take? The boy replied, "I'll take one of them, a winder, or a doubler, I don't care which." The "Serenader" had to "tack," and naming over the violin, piccolo, flute, bass viol, cornet, and triangle, asked him which instrument he would play. The young man chose the triangle. Limits forbid more than the affirmation that a corpulent alderman of Northampton to-day* owes his still rising prosperity and popularity to that triangle, and to that boarding house.



SEWING MACHINE WORKS, FROM THE WEST, 1875.

The Florence Cornet Band, which was organized in the summer of 1858, under the instruction and leadership of Mr. David Shields, was composed of the following members: Mr. Shields, leader, Edward Birge, Andrew Franzen, Thomas Bailey, Jerome Mead, John Franzen, Edwin Martin, and Oscar Eldredge. The members, in the order above named, played respectively, 1st E♭ cornet, 2d E♭ cornet, B♭ alto, E♭ tenor, B♭ tenor, E♭ bass, snare drum, and bass drum and cymbals. Mr. Eldredge was treasurer of the band. Each member furnished his own instrument, and shared the other band expenses equally. Mr. Shields' services as instructor were without compensation. The band room was furnished by the brothers, Israel and Orson Graves, at a very moderate charge.

Two "Bugle blasts for Liberty" were notable engagements for the new band the first year; the one, at an anti-slavery convention in Cummington, early in the winter, and the other, the celebration in Florence, of the anniversary of the West India emancipation on the first of August following. Both of these events were successfully carried through by the co-operation of the Free Religious societies in Florence and Cummington, represented officially by Rev. Charles C. Burleigh, and Deacons Hill, Hunt, Kingman, and Abells (giants of the earth in those days).

At five o'clock on a frosty morning of a Sunday in November, 1858, the Florence Cornet Band and Glee Club were snugly stowed away in a band wagon rattling over the hills to Cummington, twenty miles away,

*This article was written in 1892.—[EDITOR.

with Joel Abercrombie, a rare whip, holding the ribbons over four prancing steeds. Deacon Hill had mildly said to Dave that the band should play one or two patriotic marches before leaving our village. Dear, deluded deacon! Dave would have done that anyway. But in consequence of the mild suggestion, the man in the moon heard the serenade, and the little, drowsy hamlet on the earth was aroused and terrified. A better acquaintance with Dave taught the deacon the superfluity of any mild hints. He never urged the band again, although he more than once checked it, generously.

The first of August celebration followed close upon that terrible calamity, the "boiler explosion." Our bass player, John Franzen, being one of the three victims, his place in the band was filled temporarily by George Stoddard of Northampton.



FORMERLY THE WILLISTON HOUSE.

In May, 1860, the generosity of Florence business men enabled the band to purchase new instruments and increase its membership. The Nichols brothers, Josiah, Edward, and Henry, Edwin Smith, George R. Stetson, Henry Fechter, Messrs. Dodge and Judd, Ira Todd, and Dwight A. Ross were the new members. The Nichols brothers as comedians would "bring down the house" every time. Any one of the brothers would "rhyme you rhymes" by the hour, and Edward was a ventriloquist of no mean ability. Memory recalls the dedication, with music, mirth, and dancing, of a new room in the sewing machine works, when one stanza out of a multitude of local hits which rhymed together to the tune of "Axes to grind," was sung by Henry as follows :—

"And there are four Eds who made a great splurge,
Ed Martin, Ed Nichols, Ed Smith, and Ed Birge,
'Twould please you to see them, marching the fields,
And trying to play music composed by Dave Shields.
Ri tu di nu," etc.

This referred to our marching practice in Mrs. Bosworth's pasture, a practice to which Dave very properly subjected the boys

The presidential campaign of that year gave the band, thus enlarged,

frequent and profitable engagements, extended its reputation and popularity, and created in each member a desire to improve his musical ability. With this end in view the band engaged Mr. Solomon Merrill, who gave us a few lessons in the autumn of 1860, the only instruction under a professional bandmaster we ever received. About this time our name was changed to "The Florence Sewing Machine Band."

When the war cry of 1861 rent the hills and valleys of our land, village bands, as a rule, were broken up. Our band was no exception. The members who enlisted in the armies are recorded elsewhere in this history. Not again until 1865 was the band sufficiently strong for duty in military parades. Northampton celebrated Independence Day of that year by a grand welcome home to her "boys in blue." The late Col. Justin Thayer was marshal of the day, and Hon. Lewis J. Dudley was the orator. The feast for soldiers and citizens was spread in the grove on Round Hill. Our band was on duty that day, the writer having the honor of being its leader.



WILLIAM P. LATHAM'S RESIDENCE.

The changed conditions of trade and manufactures, and the frequent coming and going of mechanics and musicians in consequence of the late war, made our success as a band quite variable until 1868, when our leader, Mr. Shields, after an absence of several years, was again in the sewing machine works, instructing a band class of about twenty young men. This class was the nucleus, under Mr. Shields' enterprise and remarkable executive ability, of a superb musical organization, complete in all appointments, named the "Florence Sewing Machine Military Band and Orchestra." It was from the start received here that our old friend Richard W. Irwin developed a remarkable power for rapid, rattling, clean cornet execution, and our friend A. Frank Hutchins graduated, and later became bandmaster of the Twenty-sixth New York Battalion, a position he retained for eight years.

The following "*personnel*," undoubtedly incorrect, made at this dis-

tance with unaided memory, represents our band in the height of its power :—

NOTE.—Where the name of more than one instrument follows the member's name, the first instrument refers to the orchestra, and the second to the band. For example, H. Harry Haynor was leader of the orchestra, and played E♭ alto in the band, and David Shields was solo cornet in the orchestra, and leader of the band.—[EDITOR.

H. Harry Haynor, leader, E♭ alto ; David Shields, solo cornet, leader ; Anthony Sheffeld, first violin, ———; Henry Schadee, clarinet, clarinet ; Edward Cowing, second violin, E♭ tuba ; Fred Schadee, second violin, E♭ tuba ; Charles W. Kinney, flute, piccolo ; Fred Shearn, trombone, trombone ; James Laws, clarinet, trombone ; Richard W. Irwin, cornet, solo cornet ; Andrew Franzen, cornet, cornet ; Julius Schadee, contra-



RESIDENCE OF DR. J. B. LEARNED.—FORMERLY A. SHEFFELD'S.

bass, bell tree ; Thomas Irwin, clarinet, clarinet ; Jerome Mead, violin, E♭ tenor ; William Norton, piano, solo baritone ; Edwin Martin, snare drum ; James Tayntor, snare drum ; Edward Hammond, E♭ bass ; Daniel Franzen, E♭ tuba ; Albert Shumway, E♭ tenor ; E. P. Nichols, bass drum ; Louis Eager, E♭ tenor ; Elbert M. Couch, E♭ cornet ; Fred Smith, cymbals ; James O'Niel, treasurer of band, solo alto ; George Gaffney, drum major.

I trust I may be pardoned if I close my poor contribution with a tribute to the "Northampton Community," a part of which I was in 1846, the last year of its existence. I remember it as a congregation of families of education, refinement, and sturdy common sense, but with no worldly wealth among them. I recall how our assemblies for the enjoy-

ment of literature, debate, religion, and temperance were devoid of all instrumental aids to the songs which were poured forth by the glad voices of the men, women, and children. Dear, old, beautiful Community! I remember thy works and poverty, but thou wast rich in a noble philanthropy, "remembering those in bonds as bound with them"; rich in a lofty patriotism, which, like that of the Hebrew minstrels, "could not sing the Lord's songs in a strange land" of bondage; rich in neighborly kindness, in the happy laughter of children as I heard the sound of their going to and fro among the mulberry trees; thou, dear old boyhood's home, wast an earnest of the Florence of to-day, with her lavish accompaniment of music and her abundant evidences of material prosperity heard and seen on every hand.

THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

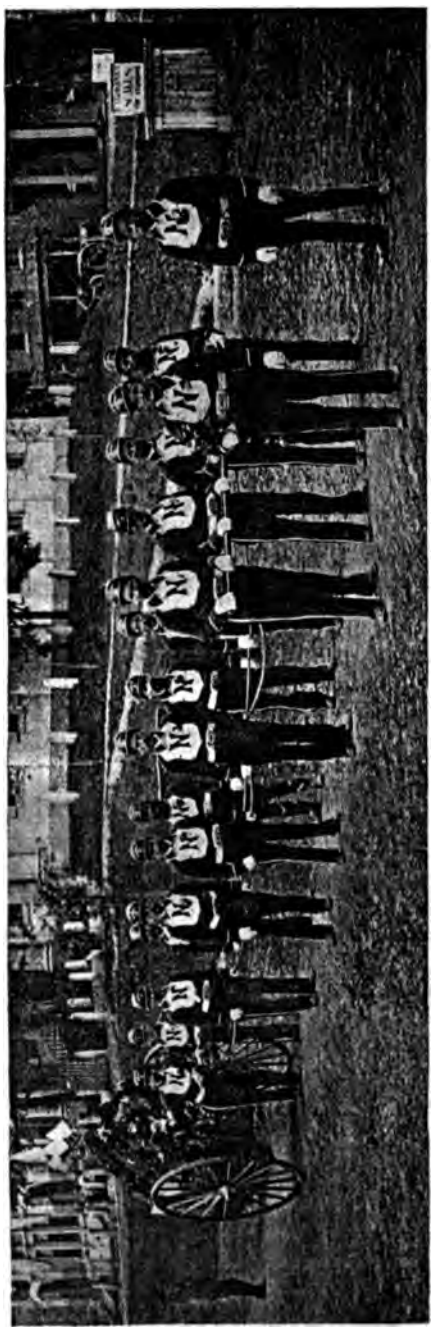
By Clayton E. Davis.

Florence has always prided herself on her fire department. Although less than twenty-five years old, it has taken rapid strides and to-day our engine house contains the latest of fire apparatus, and the members of the department are fully versed in the art of fire fighting.



ENGINE HOUSE—FIRE DEPARTMENT.

In 1870, at the annual town meeting it was voted to purchase three new "self-acting fire extinguishers." These were delivered to the city in July, and were to be stationed at Florence. The first company was organized with A. C. Estabrook, foreman, and Nonotuck No. 1 was chosen for its name. The original members were D. A. Hemenway, George Ballow, Patrick Dady, N. P. Abbott, David Remington, C. Fairbanks, Joseph Huxley, L. B. Askins, W. H. Riley, Nicholas VanSlike, William VanSlike, Cornelius VanSlike, D. A. Ross, L. H. Ranney, and A. C.



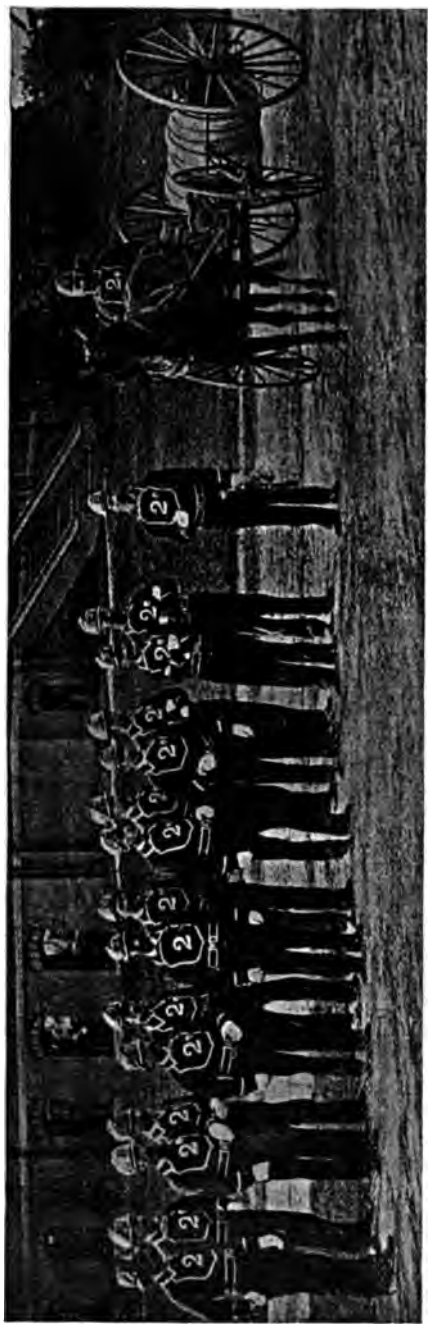
NONOTUCK FIRE COMPANY—FROM PHOTO TAKEN JULY 31, 1878.

Estabrook. The company met at a small wooden building in the rear of the Congregational chapel.

Soon after a second company was formed which had its headquarters in a small building on Chestnut street, then owned by the Florence Sewing Machine Company. In 1872, hose reels were placed here, which were drawn by hand. In those days when a fire alarm was sounded the firemen had to run to their respective engine houses and drag, oftentimes through the mud or snow, a reel weighing thirteen hundred pounds, and, when the fire was reached, the men were generally ready to drop from exhaustion.

The present engine house was completed in 1883, the town appropriating $4000 for the ground and building. On the lower floor is stationed a new hose wagon, the Clapp and Jones steamer and the hook and ladder truck. The second floor is devoted to a large reception room, which was furnished by our citizens, a bedroom and another small room. Within the past year the electric alarm system has been extended to this village, and every alarm throughout the city is now sounded at our engine house.

Florence has been quite free from large fires. One of the



FLORENCE HOSE COMPANY, NO. 2—FROM PHOTO TAKEN SEPTEMBER, 1880.

largest was the burning of the tack works on March 16, 1877; $30,000 worth of property was destroyed, but fortunately the company was insured for $23,000. Before the first company was organized the Munde water cure burned, in 1865. A crowd of volunteer firemen and firewomen soon gathered, and the comical scenes which often occur at fires were repeated here. Crockery and furniture were thrown from second story windows, and doors and windows were smashed to keep them from burning. The doctor's private wine vault was discovered and many a bottle emptied.

Other fires of consequence have been as follows: December 7, 1877, the "Pine Street block" of the machine company; December 30, 1877, Burns' box shop, near the Nonotuck works; April 4, 1880, the "Center Street block" of the machine company; September 22, 1880, the Williston house on Pine street, and Sawyer's soap factory, May 8, 1887.

The "Pine Street block" was burned through the thoughtlessness of a tenant, who wound rags around a frozen water pipe, and, after saturating them with kerosene, set the mass afire to take out the frost. The attempt was successful, all the frost in the building disappearing.

The firemen have had the usual experiences of being called out on false alarms. The most laughable one, perhaps, was a run to Haydenville made by one of the companies, dragging the extinguisher, in answer to the call of a new whistle that was being tried at the brass works. The start was made at the suggestion that there was trouble at Leeds.

Accidents to members of the department while on duty have been few. Thomas Rothwell was struck by a brick at a fire at the Center several years ago, and William Rhood was laid up for a month from injuries received at the Howes barn fire. Cornelius VanSlike caught cold at the Congregational chapel fire, which, it is claimed, caused his death.

THE EAGLE BASE BALL CLUB.

By One of the Players.

The ball players that brought renown to Florence attained their skill in the days of round ball, the game from which the more scientific base ball was evolved, or in the early associations known as the Florence, Emmett, Active, and Bay State Clubs.



FIREMEN TESTING THE LIFE CHUTE.

In the summer of 1865, the Twentieth Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry returned from the war with a glorious record for bravery and endurance. One of its members who had his home in this neighborhood wrote to a friend here that a nine from the regiment had successfully competed with nines from other regiments in adjoining camps, and it claimed the championship of the Army of the Potomac. He challenged his friend to find a nine that could defeat the champions. To accept this challenge, the Eagle Base Ball Club was organized with H. H. Bond as president and E. S. Bottum, secretary. Fred W. Clark, a player of recognized ability, was elected captain, and, while awaiting the return of the regiment, active practice was commenced.

The game was played August first, 1865. Captain Clark played left field, H. H. Bond pitcher, Jonas Polmatier catcher, W. M. Kingsley short stop, Luther Askins, John Metcalf, and Frank Holmes tended the bases, while J. B. O'Donnell and Patrick Whalen were in right and center fields, respectively. The score, thirty to three, gave to the Eagles the first of a long series of championships. Clark, Kingsley, Metcalf, and Holmes did not again appear in the nine, while Bond and Polmatier did not return to the club until the next year.

New players to fill vacancies were admitted, and a challenge from the Conway Club was accepted. The game was fought and won on September second, 1865, on the Colonel Pomeroy place, near Mr. Stockbridge's present residence, with the score of forty-six to thirteen. The game was followed by a supper given by the victors to their Conway visitors.

A warm, personal friendship grew up between these two clubs, which continued during the life of the organizations, and frequent interchanges of courtesies took place between them. The return game between these clubs was played at Conway, on September sixteenth, and in this game the players had drifted into the positions which they afterwards usually occupied. O'Donnell acted as captain in his famous stronghold, the second base position; Arthur Hill now first appeared with the club, having been away from home when the first two games were played. The day was a fine one, and it was made a special holiday in Conway. The mills stopped, and the farmers took a rest. The "beauty and chivalry" of Conway had gathered in a mowing lot north of the village, and the game was played under pleasant auspices. The Conway Club entertained the victors with a bounteous supper at the Conway Hotel, and the hilarious "Eagles" went home to dream of future conquests.

One week later the "Nicæan Nine" of Amherst College undertook to capture the Eagles, but failed, much to the surprise of the collegians, who had expected an easy victory. The Eagle Club had as yet no uniforms, and a marked contrast was visible between the trim, handsomely costumed "Nicæans," and the bareheaded, barefooted, country lads, who could play ball if they did not look pretty.

Two more games were played, with the Williston No. 2 from Easthampton, and the Haydenville Club, and the season of 1865 was closed with a clear list of victories for the club.

With the opening of the season of 1866, the nine had been much strengthened by the return of Bond and Polmatier, who became very important members. Bond had made a scientific study of the art of pitching and immediately stepped into the front rank of the Western Massachusetts pitchers.

Upon April second, the Conway Club, now called the Franklin Club, under Capt. George Kaulback, appeared in Florence and another victory over these genial fellows was awarded the Florence boys. J. W. O'Neill appeared from this time as the official scorer for the club. The Nicæan nine as re-organized was defeated at Amherst by the score of thirty-eight to twenty-one, on the Agricultural fair grounds. Contact with such men as composed the Amherst nine did much to improve the players



R. F. CONNELL, J. POLMATIER, A. G. HILL, E. S. BOTTUM, M. H. DUNN,
P. WHALEN, H. H. BOND, A. ROBERTSON, J. B. O'DONNELL.

EAGLE BASE BALL CLUB.

and give them self-reliance. A marked improvement in the playing of the club was noticed from this time. In this game, the college boys learned the mettle of the Florence team and acknowledged its strength.

On June first, the Monitor Club of Holyoke was defeated by a large score and, on June ninth, the first of a series of contests took place at Chicopee, between the Hampden Club of that place and the Eagle Club, for the silver ball championship of western Massachusetts. The Eagle Club here met its first defeat, the score being thirty-six to ten. On July fourth, the Amateur Club of Westfield received the attention of the Eagles and in five minutes less than two hours were defeated in a West-

field sand bank, with the thermometers registering high figures, and the scorers making the runs twenty to thirteen.

It was voted to try again for the silver ball championship. When they felt that they were strong, the Eagles resorted to a little stratagem to learn the strength of the Hampden Club. An impromptu organization was made by five Eagles and four players from Northampton, which was called the "Bay State nine." This team challenged the Hampden Club to a friendly game not for the championship. The challenge was accepted and the boys went to Hampden Park, Springfield, each one girdled with a "Bay State" engine company's belt. The result of the game being favorable, a challenge was sent from the Eagle Club for the silver ball championship.

On August eighteenth, the Hampden and Eagle Clubs, therefore, met again on the "Patch" in Chicopee. The crowd was very large and the excitement intense. Hill, the lucky fellow, was first at the bat and struck the first ball pitched, getting to first base by the "skin of his teeth." Bond, who followed, had adopted a new style of batting, and the first ball pitched to him was landed in extreme right field, close to the foul line. On this hit he reached third base, sending Hill home with a scored run. Result on first two pitched balls, one run and a man on third base. O'Donnell and the succeeding players continued the good work and the first inning closed with nine tallies for the Florence boys.

When Ed Hickey of the Hampdens planted a fly ball in Bottum's hands, the game was won by the Eagle nine and the excitement culminated. The players and the crowd went crazy ; Dunn came in from the field turning handsprings, Hammond stood on his head on the third base, Polmatier and Robertson were in the hands of their friends, Bottum and O'Donnell were yelling themselves hoarse, Hill and Bond were on the shoulders of enthusiasts going around the "Patch" at a little less than forty miles an hour, while Whalen to this day cannot tell what happened to him. The arrival home was an ovation from the Northampton railroad station to the homes of the boys, a brass band parade and an illuminated village giving them a great welcome.

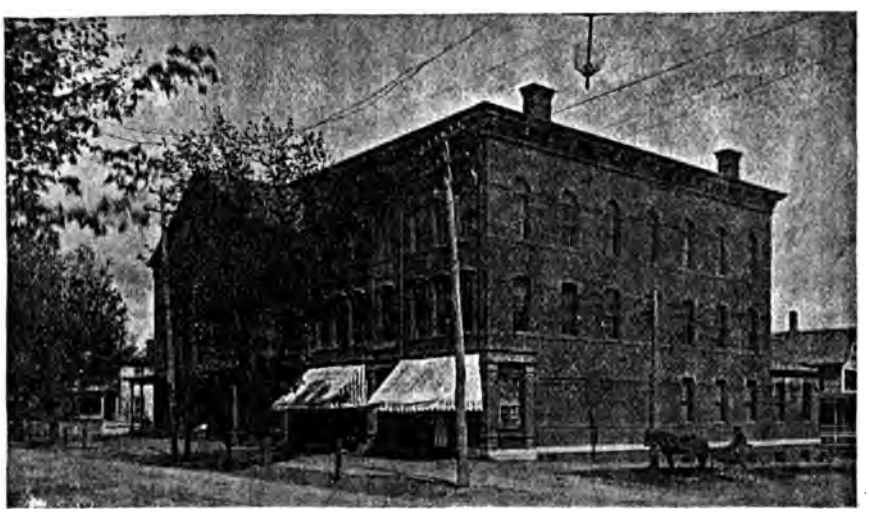
After defeating the Mount Tom Club of Easthampton, the Eagles prevented the silver ball from returning to Chicopee by again defeating the Hampden Club, this time at Florence.

On September eighth, the Pioneer Club of Springfield appeared in search of the silver ball, but it was unfortunate in the day, as the Florence boys had on their batting clothes, and did terrific execution, batting out sixty-eight runs to their opponents' twenty. The little printed poem, "Nine graves for the Eagles," brought to the grounds by the Pioneers, was not distributed as was the intention.

On October third, the Franklins of Conway were again defeated, and, on the fourth, the Monitors of Holyoke suffered another defeat at the hands of the Eagle Club. On October sixth, the Hampden Club appeared again and carried away the silver ball, the score, twenty-one to ten, giving them this privilege. This trophy ever afterwards remained in Chicopee, neither the Eagle Club nor any other association taking any interest in it from the construction placed upon the regulations governing the contests.

In November the club visited New York city to play with the great amateur clubs, but the weather was so unpropitious little skill could be exhibited, and the games with the Excelsior and Atlantic Clubs were played in overcoats, and all hands were glad when they closed.

The season of 1867 opened with victories over several minor clubs,



DAVIS AND KNIGHTS OF HONOR BLOCKS.

the first game of any importance being the defeat at Greenfield of the Quinipiac Club of West Meriden, Conn., July second. On July twenty-seventh, the Star Club of Greenfield was defeated by the score of fifty-five to twenty-six. The Union Club of Lansingburgh, N. Y., better known as "the Haymakers," came to Northampton, and a noteworthy game took place on the Agricultural fair grounds. It was a close contest for eight innings, but in the ninth the Haymakers mowed too wide a swath for the local club, and the score, seventeen to nine, entitled the visitors to carry off the Eagles' claws. Victories over the Old Elm Club of Pittsfield, the Pequot Club of New London, the Champions of Connecticut, the Stars of Greenfield, and the Federal Club of Shelburne

Falls followed in quick succession, the two latter occurring on the same day. *The Greenfield Gazette* nicknamed Bottum and Whalen "Battem and Whalem" for their work at the bat in the two games. The Conway Club was again defeated in September, and on the eighteenth of the same month the Union Club of Lansingburgh, N. Y., sent the Eagles home with the worst defeat sustained in their career — fifty-eight to eighteen.

A New England Association of Base Ball Clubs had been formed, and the Eastern states put into five districts. The champions of the five districts met on September twenty-third, at Riverside Park, near Boston, to compete for the New England championship. The Eagle Club appeared as the champions of the fifth district (western Massachusetts, and state of Connecticut). The Eagles easily defeated the Rollstone Club of Fitchburg, the Fraternity Club of South Boston, and the champion club of the third district. On the twenty-sixth came the strife between the Eagle Club and the Trimountain Club of Boston. This game the Eagles have always repudiated, as the club received such unfair treatment from the tournament committee and the umpire. The club after protesting, without effect, to the selection of the umpire by the committee, felt obliged to decline proceeding with the game after three very unfair decisions of the umpire, and the game was awarded the Trimountain Club. The boys returned home, feeling ill-used, but confident of their ability to cope successfully with any New England Club.



"Young hearts shall hail the drifted cold,
As gayly as we did of old."
—*Whittier.*

The season closed after two more games with the Hampden Club, not for the silver ball, however. The first of the two was won by the Florence team, while the latter one resulted in a tie game, each club scoring twenty-two runs. The club did not reorganize after that season, and though Eagle Clubs have existed in Florence to this day, the old Eagle nine rested on its laurels, and has been since then a memory of the past.

The Eagle Club suffered six defeats only in its three years' career, two by the Hampden Club of Chicopee (this club was beaten three times by the Eagles, and the sixth game of the series was a drawn game), two by

the Unions of Lansingburgh, and one each by the Atlantic and Excelsior Clubs of New York city. These, with the game given to the Trimountain Club by the tournament committee, are the only records which can be found against the Eagle nine. Only the important games have been mentioned here.

The individual members did not apparently suffer in their morals by their frequent trips from home. Good discipline was maintained, and the younger members were well looked after by the older ones. The warmest feeling always existed between the members, no bickerings or unpleasant scenes ever transpired.

The scores were large in those days as the balls were largely composed of rubber. There was a charm about good amateur playing which the present collections of professional players do not furnish; a Florence Club meant a club of Florence players, and a local pride in the nine was felt by each inhabitant of the village.

Of those recognized as the nine, Henry H. Bond, Philip J. Mara, Edward H. Hammond, and Edmund Connell are no longer living. Florence is still the home of Jonas Polmatier, J. B. O'Donnell, Edward S. Bottum, and Arthur G. Hill. Patrick Whalen lives in New Haven, Andrew Robertson in Springfield, while Michael H. Dunn, James Mehan, and John McGrath are supposed still to be busy somewhere in the world's work. James W. O'Neill, the faithful scorer, holds an important position in Wichita, Kansas.



EAST ON MAIN STREET IN 1875.

The club was greatly indebted to the people of Florence, especially to the workmen in the shops of the Florence Sewing Machine Company, who did much in the way of providing uniforms, equipments, and transportation expenses. No player received any pay for his time, the individual gave that freely, and to several it meant self-sacrifice in many directions.

Bond and O'Donnell would rank as first-class players. What they did was carefully planned and executed. Dunn was a phenomenon, lithe, active, though apparently careless, with a keen eye, always in the right place, seemingly by accident. Polmatier, long of arm and large of

frame, was the easiest player on the team, sometimes a little too easy for the best results. Robertson and Mara, the catchers, were small and active, often achieving success where larger men would have failed. Robertson was the stronger and better player of the two. Bottum, though small, was cordy and resolute, never afraid, a strong batter and a sure catch. Whalen was thoroughly reliable, no steadier or more graceful player appeared on the field. His "daisy cutters" were sent with such power that rarely were they stopped in season to do him mischief. Askins at his best was a good player. "Old Bushel Basket" was his pet name, for, until his sickness, the balls seemed to drop into his fingers and stay there as if a basket held them. Hill was active and made a fair showing as a player. He achieved his greatest renown from the nine he captained. Never a strong batter, he slid to many a base just quick enough to claim it. His throwing powers were weakened by an injury to his arm in the season of 1866, so that he played only as substitute in 1867, though retaining the captaincy until the end. Connell was a good short stop and reserve pitcher, and generally did heavy batting. The third base was always the weak spot in the nine, Hammond, Mehan, and Payson doing good work in that position, but neither of them proving an ideal baseman. McGrath, the pitcher of the first year, was a better pitcher than batter, but he was much missed until Bond showed his great ability.

The days of such organizations seem to have passed, but an enthusiast derived more pleasure in witnessing the honest games of such teams as the Eagles and the Hampdens, than the 1894 games of the more scientific professionals.

MY EARLY RECOLLECTIONS.

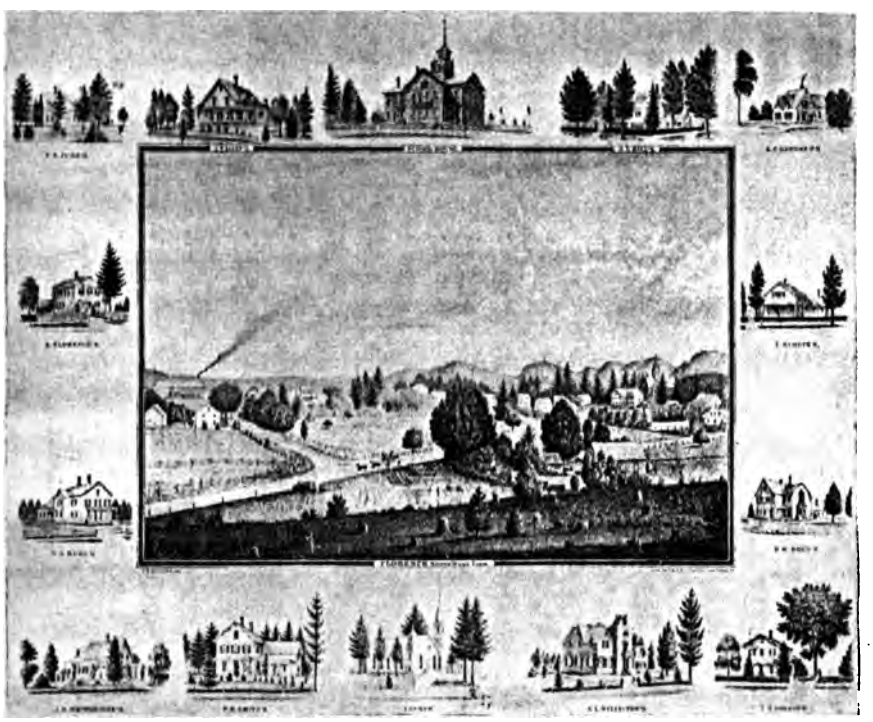
By John B. O'Donnell.

In complying with your request to write relative to my early recollections of the beautiful village so long my home, scenes of pleasure and joy crowd upon me. These are mingled with sorrow and sadness when I think of the many dear friends and kind neighbors who then were adding to and aiding in the general happiness but, alas! who are now in their long and silent homes.

About the middle of March, 1859, when twelve years of age, stout and muscular, robed in a farmer's frock, near the "Cross house," in Florence, with unerring aim, I stood at noon pouring snowballs at the boys and young men on their way to the cotton mill and button shop. The snowballs were so hard and my boldness so exasperating that several

times a rush was made to thrash me, to avoid which I sought refuge within the walls of the house. Thus it was that I introduced myself to the companions and friends of my youth and manhood.

Florence at this time was a place of humble but happy homes. The classes and self-styled aristocrats, now so numerous in other places, were here unknown. Protestant, Catholic, Gentile, and Jew, white and black, all were invited, received, and welcomed as members of one common brotherhood. There were but few houses, comparatively. There



VIEW OF FLORENCE AND RESIDENCES ABOUT 1865—FROM OLD LITHOGRAPH.

was no church, but meetings were often held in the little district schoolhouse that stood where the High school building now stands. The Catholics went to Northampton to mass in the King street church. To this church and back, the people of Florence, and very many from Easthampton, Hatfield, Williamsburg, and Amherst, walked, yet consumption and heart disease were almost unknown among them. There was no public mode of conveyance on Sundays, and only Abercombie's bus on week days, at fifty cents for the round trip. Of course livery horses

then, as now, were in demand on special occasions, all of which were supplied by Graves Brothers, "under the hill," in the rear of the houses just below the Askins homestead. They are yet in business *on* the hill, and long may they live and prosper! Nonotuck street was then the main street and the only business place of the village.

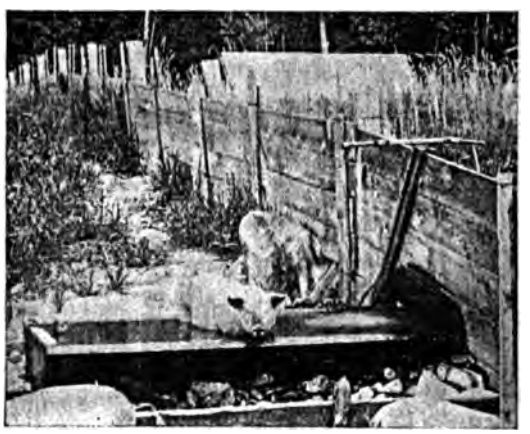
The games and sports of the youth were mostly indulged in on the Sabbath day. "Paradise," then owned by the Greenville Manufacturing Company, was fairly alive with girls, boys, and men on Sundays during the summer. In the winter the scene of action changed to the crust-covered snow on the hillsides, and the ice on the ponds and river, and always their merry laughter and joyous shouts rang and echoed over the neighboring hills.

The strict Sabbatarian who may peruse these lines, will not, I trust, too severely criticise and censure the youth, the parents, or the community of those days. There was no law fixing the school age of the children, and all the poor were obliged to begin to work at an early age. It was no uncommon thing to see children regularly employed at the age of nine years, and these—almost infants—and all others were obliged to labor from half past six in the morning till half past seven at night, with only one half hour intermission for dinner. Where was the time during the week for reading, recreation, and sleep?

But as time went on and the factories prospered, many strict church people immigrated to the village. They naturally objected to this godless manner of observing the holy Sabbath, and an effort was made to break it up. They had Mr. Julius Phelps, afterwards a deacon of the "White" Church, appointed a constable to arrest and imprison (!) all Sabbath breakers. While Mr. Phelps was a conscientious, Christian gentleman, he had a big, liberal, and sympathetic heart. The boys respected him very much, and they were ever ready to show their obedience and good intentions—*when he was in sight!* They continued clandestinely, however, to play as of old, but when the games were in progress the sentinels and pickets were always on duty, ever on the alert to give the alarm, when all would at once put on their coats, sit down lawfully, and await the approach of the "common enemy." They always got a lecture and good advice from the kind-hearted constable. But Mr. Phelps "caught on" to the picket protector, and formulated plans to break through it.

A match game of ball was arranged between the forces of the cotton mill and button shop, to be played opposite the brick house near Landy's —no Landy avenue then. It was a great battle! In the middle of the game, while excitement ran high, a great shout of alarm rent the air, and lo and behold! there was the officer coming at full speed and almost

upon them. The warriors grabbed their scanty wardrobes and ran for dear life down the Bay State road towards the dam, many jumping into the river and swimming to the opposite shore. But after every storm there comes a calm. They halted on a lot near the insane asylum, reorganized, threw out their pickets, and fought the battle to a finish. A quarter of a century afterwards, when Mr. Phelps, a stanch friend of mine, and I were on duty as city assessors, I reminded him of this episode. He remembered it well, and he laughed loud and heartily.



COOLING OFF.

The evening school of Florence was a most timely and beneficial institution. Samuel L. Hill was the prime mover and principal supporter for five years, when the town assumed the management. A. T. Lilly, Samuel A. Bottum, and others were contributors. For a few years the teaching was done by volunteers. Among these were Daniel W. Bond, now an honored judge of the superior court, Thomas S. Mann, and A. R. Morse. During the vacations of this school, writing was taught by Michael Walsh, Edson S. Ross, and a Mr. Hillman.

Among the persons employed to teach the evening school were Mary W. Bond, a very successful teacher, a Mr. Battles, who was not so successful, and Caroline W. James, who was the longest connected with the school. She was a lady of rare executive ability, kind and gentle, yet the most unruly boy was completely under her control. She seemed readily to extricate from difficulty the dullest mind, and never appeared impatient or discouraged. The school was well and regularly attended, having about fifty scholars, and among her "graduates" are successful journalists, lawyers, mechanics, and business men and women.

To this school many of us owe much, and to the originators, supporters, and teachers we can never be too grateful. I gladly take this opportunity to acknowledge my appreciation of their philanthropy and valuable services, and to extend my grateful thanks to those of them who are living. I shall ever revere and cherish the memory of those who have since joined the silent majority, who, I trust, are now enjoying their heavenly reward.

THE MUNDE WATER CURE.

By Paul F. Munde, M.D.

We first went to Florence early in the fifties and there I spent sixteen of the happiest years of my life. As a boy I roamed over the fields and woods, fished the stream and the brooks, then teeming with trout, bathed at Locust Grove many times with my old friend, Arthur Hill, played baseball in the field near his house, coasted in winter down the hills, went for the mail to the post office at the village store kept by I. S. Parsons, and enjoyed myself in the magnificent country as only a boy can.

The land opposite our house was covered with mulberry trees, the ripe and luscious fruit of which I gathered with great pleasure. They were a remnant of the Whitmarsh mulberry fever. In those days, game was fairly plenty. Coons were common, squirrels abundant, partridges and quail easy to find in the season, and the woods in places were more or less primeval. Northampton was then a "town," but to us villagers quite a place, toward which our ambitions soared.



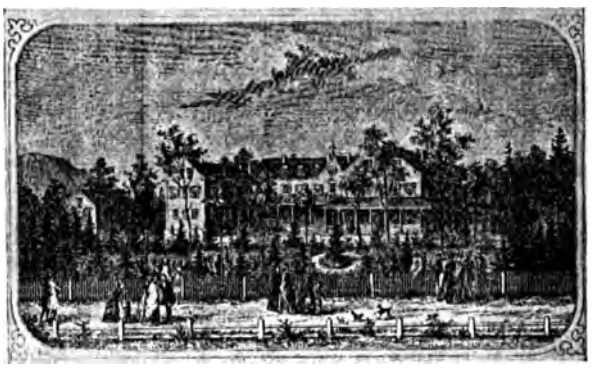
CHARLES MUNDE, M.D.

At that time new ideas and practices in various lines were very popular in Florence, which had always been a sort of haven of refuge for original minds, reformers, and conspirators in a mild way. The Graham Bread Cure, Abolitionism, Freethinkers, Cold Water Cure, and other innovations on commonly accepted customs, found ready support among the business men and farmers of Hampshire County. In this way can be explained the foundation of a small water cure establishment at Florence which was managed by "Dr." Ruggles, whose natural shrewdness in a measure compensated for his want of scientific knowledge.

Hydropathy had found its way across the water from the numerous followers and pupils of Priessnitz, who, at Graefenberg, in the mountains of Austrian Silesia, had established an institution which in spite of its fanatical and reckless methods of treatment, achieved remarkable cures and spread the name of its founder throughout the civilized world.

One of these pupils and followers was my father, who had become a convert through his own cure of gout, which at the early age of thirty threatened to terminate his life.

After struggling for nearly a year in New York in search of a practice (my father's office was in a basement in Chambers street, I believe) through Horace Greeley, I think, my father was informed of the opportunity to take up his favorite method at Florence, through the death of "Dr." Ruggles. Without money, but endowed with a vigorous constitution, an iron determination, and indomitable energy, my father took charge of the dilapidated building which constituted the so-called "water cure," and with the help of kind friends who loaned him money without security, soon had them in such condition that they were fit to receive patients from the better classes. In two years or thereabouts, he was able to pay off his debts and build a large new house. From that time the tide of prosperity flowed steadily for him until the breaking out of the Rebellion threatened to ruin him. A very large number of his patients were from the South, and among the guests were to be found the names of the proudest families of Virginia, Kentucky, the Carolinas, and Alabama.



CHARLES MUNDE'S WATER CURE.

I remember well the day of the election of Abraham Lincoln, when my father and I returned from a visit to Boston, expressly that my father might cast his vote for Lincoln. On our return home, a Southern lady, a Mrs. Wogram from New Orleans, asked my father, as he alighted from the carriage, why he had returned sooner than he had expected. He replied, "To vote." She asked, "And whom did you vote for, Doctor?" "Why, for Lincoln, of course." "We leave the house to-morrow, Doctor," at once replied the lady. "Very well," said my father, "you can all go, if that is your reason," and go they did, all of them. In two days there was not a Southerner in the house.

Soon, however, when the country rallied from the shock of secession and settled down to the conviction of a long war, business again resumed its natural channels, improved even, and new patients from North, East,

and West fully made up for those from the South who stayed away, and the old prosperity of the establishment returned and continued until it was destroyed by fire on the night of November seventh, 1865. Feeling exhausted by fifteen years of work, and having reached the age of sixty, my father decided not to rebuild, and we all returned to Europe in April, 1866, my father, mother, and sister not to return.

Only those who knew our place when my father first took it can appreciate the hard and incessant labor, and the great expense which it cost to make out of a comparatively barren wilderness a beautiful park, with large trees, shady walks, and fragrant flower beds. When I revisited the old place in 1872, on my return from abroad, I hardly knew it. The old wilderness had returned, one building only was standing of the horseshoe structure which easily accommodated one hundred and fifty patients. The woods in which I had played and hunted the partridges were cut down, and blackened stumps occupied their place.

The popularity of my father's establishment was mainly due to his successful treatment of his patients. Many chronic, intractable ailments, which had resisted the usual remedies employed by the medical profession, yielded to the regular hours, carefully regulated diet, exercise, bathing, sweating, rubbing, drenching, etc., which formed the routine of life in the cure. Many prominent physicians visited the establishment with patients, or in order to see the methods there employed. I will but mention the late Dr. J. Marion Sims, the father of modern gynecology.

Although at first practiced empirically and with the reckless hardihood peculiar to new methods ; although in imminent danger of becoming obsolete through the fanaticism of "cranks," who would make the world believe that water was a "cure-all," in course of time hydropathy assumed a more scientific aspect, and was gradually recognized by the regular profession as a potent aid in their practice. In the popular mind hydropathy formerly meant the treatment of all kinds of diseases with cold water. This was an error. The treatment was really with water, cold, hot, warm, and tepid, as the case should indicate, applied in many different ways in accordance with well understood scientific rules and practice. Diet, rest, early hours, freedom from care and excitement, fresh country air,—all these were, of course, natural ad-



PINE STREET BRIDGE IN 1863.
From a letter head of Dr. Munde's.

juncts to the hydropathic treatment. No doubt many a patient has succumbed to the misjudged zeal of his (hydropathically) ignorant medical attendant.

Our life at Florence was a happy one, but, on the whole, uneventful. My father's large establishment, with its grounds of over one hundred acres, kept him so occupied, that in the busy season (spring and summer), he had little time to attend to other matters. But he was always warmly interested in the welfare and progress of the village, which was slowly and steadily increasing in size and importance. He never forgot to his dying day (he died in Goez, Austria, in February, 1887, at the age of eighty-two) the beautiful spot where he had spent so many happy years, met so many warm friends, and last, but not least, amassed a competence which enabled him to spend the last sixteen years of his life in comfort and independence. My father always gloried in his American citizenship, and in his association with Florence. Pictures of our old home there hung in his house at Goez in prominent positions when I last visited him there in 1886.

FLORENCE IN THE MILL RIVER FLOOD.

By Clayton E. Davis.

This work would not be complete without a brief sketch of the Mill River flood. The whole valley, from Williamsburg to Northampton, shook from stem to stern on that now memorable morning, May sixteenth, 1874, and when the enemy had passed beyond, it was discovered that it had wrecked four villages, destroyed thousands upon thousands of dollars worth of property, and had sent into the unknown land one hundred and thirty-six human beings.



FLOOD WOOD ON WARNER'S MEADOW.

The defective reservoir, which was the cause of this terrible catastrophe, was situated about three miles above Williamsburg, in the northeastern part of the town. In the month of May, 1874, there was standing all along this valley a costly array of mills, factories, shops, offices, and banks. Nearly all were in operation. The stream was low, and, upon the evening of the fifteenth, the families retired to rest with no thought of the impending danger; mill owners, bankers, capitalists, were



WRECK OF BOARDING HOUSE AT HAYDENVILLE.



RUINS OF STONE BRIDGE AT LEEDS.

engrossed in their schemes for the future; all was peace, prosperity, comfort, and domestic happiness. The morning of the sixteenth dawned — the fatal day had arrived.

The reservoir was in charge of George Cheney, and he inspected the dam, as usual, at six o'clock on the eventful morning, and found everything satisfactory. But very soon his father from the house discovered the break, and Cheney, grasping at once the situation, sprang on his horse, and started for Williamsburg. The rides of Cheney to Williamsburg, of Collins Graves and Jerome Hillman to Haydenville, and Myron Day from Haydenville through Leeds to Florence, have passed into history. This article must be brief, and it is sufficient to say that by their heroic work hundreds of lives were saved.

Hardly had Cheney started when the dam began to crumble more and more. The wall fell away faster and faster, and soon with a sudden roar the great mass was carried out at once. The imprisoned waters, pouring through with indescribable fury, began their terrible work of destruction. The flood had commenced.

Pages could be filled with an account of this mad rush of the waters from the time the flood burst upon Williamsburg until it had passed Florence.

The water dashed out from its heretofore strong house, and, seeming to mock the dam that previously had held it in check, flew into the valley below. The waters first struck the village of Williamsburg, and houses, mills, bridges, and fifty-seven persons were grasped within its arms. The same story can be told of Skinnerville, where four lives were lost, in Haydenville, where forty-one buildings and twenty-four persons were carried onward, and in Leeds, where fifty-one of its inhabitants swelled the list of the dead to one hundred and thirty-six. Out of thirty buildings along the main street in Leeds, but three defied the flood.

The village of Florence awoke, as usual, that morning, and its people hurried through the rain to their different places of daily toil. Soon after eight o'clock, Myron Day drove into the lower part of the village, and alarmed the employers of the shops and mills. The alarm quickly spread, and the mill employees fled to places of safety, there to watch the mad rush of the waters. The warning flew throughout the village, but before many could get to the river the flood had passed, and the angry waters had added another chapter to the disasters of this country.



SEARCHING FOR DEAD ON FLORENCE MEADOWS.*

The first rush of the advancing flood was formidable as a tidal wave, sweeping everything before it. It rolled onward in a billow from six to ten feet in height, as it entered Florence, laden with a mass of flood wood, comprised of dismantled houses, bridges, factory buildings, fences, uprooted trees, dead animals, and, fearful to relate, human bodies—men, women, and little children, rent, bruised, stripped of their clothing, and battered almost beyond recognition. While people were yet wondering, dazed, and confounded at this terrible rush

* Seventeen bodies were found here.

of waters, the Meadow street bridge gave way with a crash, and was hurled onward toward the iron bridge at the brush shop. In a twinkling, this second bridge was torn from its supports, and a minute later both bridges went over the dam. At about the same moment the wooden bridge just below the Nonotuck Silk Company yielded to the force, and that, too, passed onward. In ten minutes the water had risen to six feet above the highest watermark, and the scene for the next hour was absolutely appalling. Scores of dwellings on every hand in the lower part of the village stood like so many islands in a wilderness of angry waters, and people were running in every direction, alarmed and bewildered by the catastrophe which had come so suddenly upon them. Lower floors had to be abandoned, and the families crouched in terror in the upper stories expecting every moment to have their homes swept down the stream.



DÉBRIS ON JOHN WARNER'S MEADOW.

But little property was lost in Florence. The Nonotuck Silk Company lost an addition to their dye house which was in process of completion, a blacksmith shop and storehouse were carried away, also a shed forty feet long, containing five hundred dollars worth of flour, a lot of lumber owned by Amos Eldridge, and one hundred cords of wood belonging to the Nonotuck Silk Company. The Florence Manufacturing Company estimated their loss at $3000, and the remaining damage done in Florence was in the meadows, which were then owned by Austin Ross, Samuel Bottum, Solomon Phelps, Bela Gardner, John and Joseph Warner. John F. Warner sold at one dollar each, six hundred wagon loads of flood wood from his meadow. This gives an idea of the vast amount of débris strewn over the lowlands.

As soon as the water began to recede, the bodies were found and a place was provided for them, until they could be identified, in a small wooden building used by William J. Warner as a carpenter shop and

situated above his residence on North Main street, where the bodies were brought in all day Saturday and Sunday. They were laid in two rows and each made as presentable as possible. There were men, women, and children, some with features convulsed in agony, others quiet and peaceful as if in sleep. As soon as a body was recognized, it was removed, and many were the heartrending scenes as the bereaved ones recognized companions, friends, or relatives in that silent company.

The news of the disaster spread over the country like wildfire, creating the greatest excitement. Before noon Saturday, though it was raining, people began to arrive. On Sunday the weather being pleasant, people came by the thousand ; lumber wagons, buggies, carriages, and express wagons crowded the entire route of the disaster. Springfield, Holyoke, and other places sent large delegations. The railroad made hourly trips to accommodate the vast throng. Main street of this village was crowded with teams all day Sunday, and here and there was seen a casket that was to hold the remains of some victim. By actual count, four hundred and seventy teams passed the residence of the late Moses Warner in one hour on Sunday and all going in one direction. The work of finding the dead bodies was pushed as soon as the waters would permit, and, by Sunday morning, forty-two had been found on the Florence meadows.

FLORENCE AND THE WAR.

By Joseph B. Whitehouse.

After the lapse of one third of a century it is somewhat difficult to recall the names of those who participated in the stirring scenes which connected Florence with the great civil war. To learn its cause, the student of history must turn its pages far back, tracing its dark annals through many Congressional fights and bitter discussions over slavery, our national sin. Then came secession, an attempt to destroy our glorious Union, at which every patriotic son of the republic revolted, and when the first call to arms rung out like a death knell, from the chief of our nation, the response was quickly made. We now look back with loyal pride to Company C, 10th Massachusetts Infantry, as the first company in Hampshire County to respond to the call.

Meetings were frequently held in the town hall, where eager crowds listened to speeches filled with patriotic eloquence from such able speakers as Delano, Maltby, Hopkins, Littlefield, and many others. I well remember what emotions thrilled the large audience when the first man arose in the body of the house and said that he was going "to the front,"

as soon as he could get there. He was cheered again and again, and when order was restored Mr. Maltby arose to inquire the name of this first volunteer, saying, "My friend, you will find five hundred dollars placed to your credit in the old Northampton bank." In one evening about forty names were added to the roll. Meetings were held in various places nearly every night, at which the events of the day were eagerly discussed by anxious citizens.

It will seem strange to relate that there were those among us whose sympathy was strongly with the South. Among these may be mentioned several Southern gentlemen, guests at Dr. Munde's water cure, who manifested not a little uneasiness lest their views might cause them some trouble. Mr. A. T. Lilly assured them that they need fear no violence, as they would be treated respectfully. I may here remark that the infamous Wirz, of rebel prison fame, resided in Florence for a few years previous to the war, being employed at the water cure.

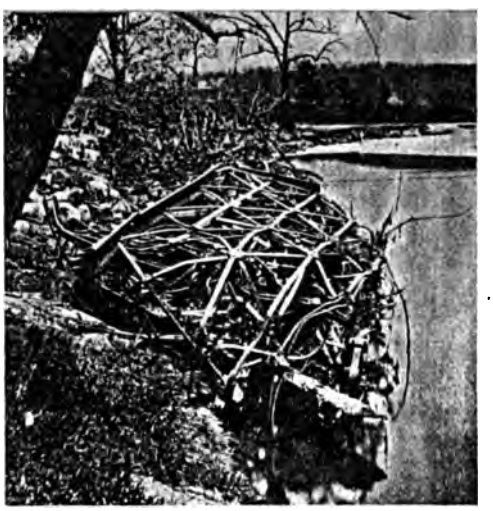


BOY'S HEAD—BY C. C. BURLEIGH, JR.

Perhaps there was nothing more realistic in this section than Company C's marching through the village to Williamsburg, where the boys camped for the night. The next day they returned and were met in Florence by leading citizens, including Messrs. Lilly, Littlefield, Parsons, Phelps, and Flood, and escorted by the Florence brass band to the open space near the Congregational church, where a bountiful collation had been provided for them by the ladies. D. G. Littlefield made the speech of welcome, and after the boys had responded with three cheers, he presented them with a box of choice cigars. Dr. Munde's water cure was also visited, where flags were flying, the Doctor having been a colonel in the Hungarian army. At the house of Julius Phelps the company halted and gave three cheers, well knowing the patriotic spirit of its inmates. On the return to Northampton each member of the company was presented with a Testament or Bible, by Dr. Eddy, the gift of the Sunday-schools of Northampton. Thus it was that the men went forth with a divine trust, knowing that the "God of battles" would be with them.

Pulpit and press were thoroughly awake to the great question then filling the popular mind, and a deep, Christian spirit prevailed over all. Men who had long since passed the meridian of useful labor cheered on their fellow comrades. At that time I was superintendent at Littlefield,

Parsons & Company's factory. Once I had occasion to leave town for a few hours. Everything was running smoothly at the shop when I went away—each man was at his place. Imagine my surprise, on returning, to meet several of my employees at the railroad station. "What does this mean?" I asked, as those were not times of labor unions and of strikes. "We are going to enlist to-night," they replied. "All right, boys, go ahead!" I answered. The war waged on to the end, and when the remaining members of the company were expected home, many of the town's people gathered at the station to meet them. Loud cheers of welcome greeted the soldier boys as they raised their tattered flags, and with uniforms ragged and worn, marched up Main street, Northampton. But what a welcome home!



PINE STREET (BRUSH SHOP) IRON BRIDGE.*

These are but a few outlines of those soul-stirring times. Ah, who can tell the price of peace! But let these lines remind our surviving comrades that their service is not forgotten, and as time goes on our nation will ever commemorate their noble deeds and prompt action in her hour of peril.

The following list of the Florence men who went to the war has been compiled from the "History of the Connecticut Valley in Massachusetts. —[EDITOR.

SECOND REGIMENT: *Three years.*—John Cahill, Jr., Company D; mustered in, May 25, 1861; discharged for disability, January 27, 1863.

TENTH REGIMENT: *Three years.*—Thomas Cahill, Company E; mustered in, June 21, 1861; discharged, June 28, 1864. Constant E. Banerat, Company C; mustered in, June 21, 1861; killed in action, May 3, 1863. Charles Hickey, Company E; mustered in, June 21, 1861; re-enlisted Company K, Thirty-seventh. Henry L. Nichols, Company E; mustered in, June 21, 1861; discharged, July 1, 1864. Edwin S. Pease, Company C; mustered in, October 18, 1861; died February 4, 1863.

TWENTY-FIRST REGIMENT: *Three years.*—Thomas Gilmartin, Company

*This bridge was twisted up by the flood, and lodged in the rear of the Greenville cotton factory, now the braid mill.

G; discharged for disability, November 18, 1862. Thomas Stephens, Company B; mustered in, August 19, 1861; re-enlisted, January 1, 1864; missing, June 17, 1864.

TWENTY-SEVENTH REGIMENT: *Three years.*—Andrew Cahill, Company A; mustered in, September 27, 1861; died, September 15, 1862. John F. Hannum, Company G; mustered in, October 15, 1861; re-enlisted; discharged, June 26, 1865. J. Freeman Nutting, Company G; mustered in, October 19, 1861; re-enlisted; discharged, June 26, 1865. Charles H. Otto, Company A; mustered in, September 20, 1861; discharged for disability, January 1, 1863. Edward W. Pease, Company G; mustered in, October 14, 1861; transferred to Veteran Reserve Corps, August 14, 1863.

THIRTY-FIRST REGIMENT: *Three years.*—Daniel Franzen, Company B; mustered in, November 26, 1861; re-enlisted.

THIRTY-SEVENTH REGIMENT: *Three years.*—Austin J. Allis, Company G; mustered in, August 6, 1862; discharged, June 21, 1865. Edmund M. Bartlett, Company G; mustered in, August 30, 1862; sick in hospital when the regiment was mustered out. David Congden, Company G; mustered in, August 30, 1862; discharged, July 10, 1865. James Crampton, Company K; mustered in, August 9, 1862; killed at Gettysburgh, July 13, 1863. Leander F. Dawes, Company G; mustered in, August 30, 1862; discharged, July 21, 1865. Thomas Dumfree, Company G; mustered in, August 30, 1862; discharged, June 21, 1865. Francis A. Gouch, Company G; mustered in, August 30, 1862; discharged for disability, November 17, 1863. Edward P. Nichols, Company H; mustered in, August 15, 1862; discharged for disability, June 5, 1864. S. E. Nichols, Company G; mustered in, August 30, 1862; discharged, June 21, 1865. Oscar C. Powell, Company G; mustered in, August 30, 1862; sick in hospital when regiment was mustered out. Austin H. Stockwell, Company G; mustered in, August 30, 1862; discharged for disability, February 25, 1863. Ira Todd, Company G; mustered in, August 30, 1862; sick when regiment was mustered out.

FIFTY-SECOND REGIMENT: *Nine Months.*—Edward L. Abercrombie, Company C; mustered in, October 2, 1862; discharged, August 14, 1863. Jona. Bailey, Company C; mustered in, October 2, 1862; discharged, August 14, 1863. Edward E. Graves, Company C; mustered in, October 11, 1862; discharged, August 14, 1863. Henry W. Gladden, Company C; mustered in, October 11, 1862; died, August 6, 1863. John Hannah, Company C; mustered in, October 2, 1862; discharged, August 14, 1863. Orin Q. Moore, Company C; mustered in, October 2, 1862; discharged, August 14, 1863. Luther A. Martin, Company C; mustered in, October 2, 1862; discharged August 14, 1863. Edward Martin, Company C;

mustered in, October 2, 1862 ; discharged, August 14, 1863. Sidney C. Smith, Company C ; mustered in, October 2, 1862 ; died at Brazier City, La., May 29, 1863.

FIRST CAVALRY : *Three Years.*—William C. Pelton, Company M ; mustered in, January 14, 1864.

WHAT FLORENCE NEEDS.

BY WILLIAM H. RILEY.

DURING the past twenty-five years Florence has been looked upon very properly as a model New England village. Business depression, and the death and removal of many of those who assisted in founding and building up the place, however, have changed the country village somewhat, and Florence of 1894 has not the air of thrift and prosperity which was so patent in the Florence of twenty years ago. There is more of the "down at the heel" and slipshod feeling in the very atmosphere than there used to be in the days when Messrs. Hill, Lilly, Burleigh, Williston, Clark, Burr, Otis, Parsons, Bond, Bottum, Edwards, O'Donnell, and many others of notable worth, were with and of us. These were the founders and builders of our village, and they have left us a goodly inheritance. There can be no question that we can, and should, build well on the broad foundations which they so faithfully laid. In attempting to answer the question put to me by the editor, "What does Florence need?" I shall not assume the role of the preacher or moralist and assert, what is no doubt true, that, were we all to live more temperate and upright lives, our village would have a sweeter and more inviting air about it, nor am I going to say what men with philanthropic dispositions and a plethoric pocketbook could do for the place. I speak rather in a plain, frank manner, to an open-hearted and sensible people, with malice toward none, and only a sincere desire for our mutual good.

Perhaps, first of all, Florence needs to-day, as it has for many years, an active and wide-awake business men's association or board of trade. Books, illustrative of our growth and prosperity, can be utilized as excellent adjuncts in calling attention to whatever meritorious features there may be to the place, but men of brains, push, and capital are essential to the success of a business men's association. The men of such an organization would be like sentinels on the watchtowers looking for anything and everything that would add to our material prosperity. Such a steering committee has been needed on several occasions. A business men's association could have saved the tack shop.

In this case, as in others, it was not capital, but a little tact that was needed. A number of important industries could have been saved to the place, and others brought in, had an energetic board of trade been on the alert. Then, too, a permanent association of this character would be beneficial in other directions. There is a natural tendency in small places to formulate religious, political, and social cliques, which, while they are looked upon, perhaps, as beneficial to individuals, have a disintegrating tendency upon the place at large. Our village improvement society has done a good work in the past, and its members are deserving of much praise for their commendable efforts. But the society's field might well be enlarged so as to embrace the village sidewalks. This lack of substantial walks is especially severe upon pedestrians in the winter season. Our people are generous and willing to pay their share of the cost, and what is needed is that some strong, effective organization should stand back of this movement for better sidewalks. Now that we have ample water and sewer facilities, with our fine schools and strong churches, there is no reason why Florence should not become a popular residential portion of the city of Northampton.

As patriotic citizens, we need, too, more enthusiasm for our schools. Few places have had greater blessings in this direction, and they should be well cherished and preserved. There is a movement on foot, however, to have our High school removed to the Center. This should be stopped at once. Some people are running wild on this centralization hobby. The same arguments which are brought to bear for the purpose of having our High school removed to Northampton, would apply equally as well to every hamlet in the county. To take this school away means that many of our boys and girls will be deprived of essential educational advantages, as their parents will not be able to pay the requisite additional expenses. Samuel L. Hill, of honored memory, gave to the village a substantial schoolhouse that we might have an advanced course, and now let every true citizen of Florence see to it that our educational advantages are not diminished or abridged.

THE VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY.

By W. L. Wilcox.

It is very interesting in the make-up of a town or village to note what has contributed to its growth, and the Village Improvement Society is largely responsible for the neatness of the lawns and well kept hedges, and the streets and walks. There is no one individual who started the

society, but a number of them, among whom the lamented Mary W. Bond stands quite conspicuous. She was for many years the treasurer of the society, and everywhere gave an encouraging word to those who were property owners, to make their places look as well as possible. At first the notices to meet for organization were not heeded except by a few, who, as every spring came, met together and chose officers for the coming year, and appointed committees for the care of streets, parks, etc., but as time rolled on those citizens who were striving to make their own premises look inviting enthused their neighbors, until at length the effort to beautify became a success.

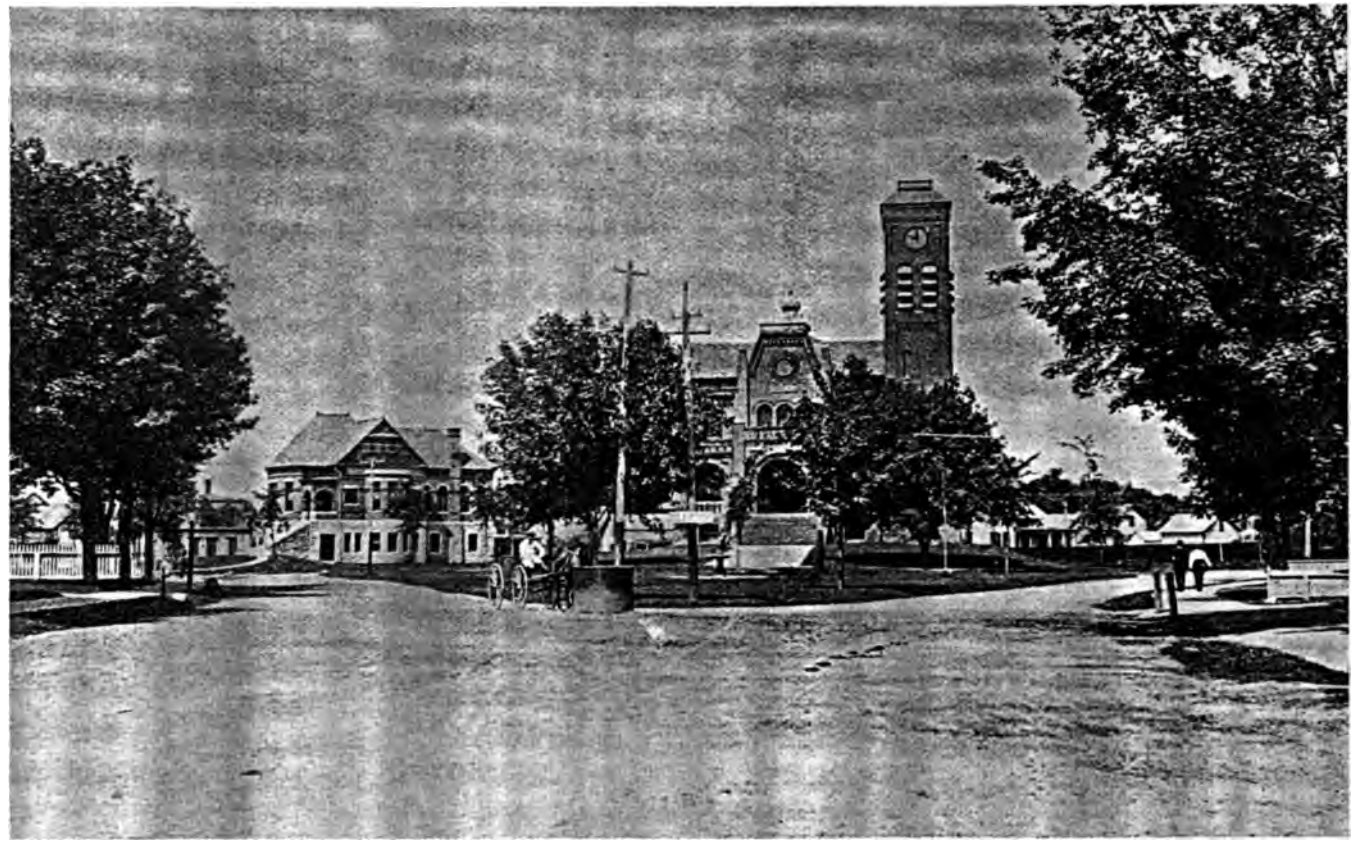
There was in the matter of tree trimming a little jealousy, at first, on the part of a few, who seemed to feel that it was encroaching on their rights, but that has all passed away. The money that has been used for beautifying the parks was at first all obtained from the fees of members, but later fifty dollars of the amount appropriated by the city for improvements was secured each year for use in Florence, so that quite a little work has been done on the three parks, namely, the one fronting Cosmian Hall, the one fronting the Congregational church, and the one between Locust and South Main streets.



FOUNTAIN AT COSMIAN PARK.

Among those who have been indefatigable in the work of this society, the names of George S. Graves and Henry B. Haven, senior, appear, the former in his care of the trees and the latter in his interest in the general work, parks in particular. It was wholly due to Mr. Haven's efforts that the pretty fountain fronting Cosmian Hall was secured. The above named gentlemen have been ably seconded in their efforts by S. B. Fuller, ex-Mayor Hill, and many others. The improvement of our village has been so marked that strangers who ride out from the Center are often heard to comment on the pretty appearance of the place.

When this society started there was nothing but gravel walks here, and the first concrete walk that was laid, was around the square, including the post office and Methodist Episcopal church. Some at first objected to paying for this work, but they afterward were very glad the concrete had been laid. At the present time the finances of the society are in such condition that with the opening of spring the same efforts will be put forth, and parks, lawns, street borders, and trees will all be looked after as usual.



THE CENTER OF THE VILLAGE.

BIOGRAPHIES.

SAMUEL LAPHAM HILL.

PREFACE.

On the list of the founders and upbuilders of Florence, the name of Samuel L. Hill must, by general consent, stand highest. He claimed no honors, himself, yet he was the uncrowned king, who drew the spontaneous love and admiration of all who came within the circle of his influence. To those who would know what he did for Florence we would say, "Look around," — for by his fruits you will know him. He gave to all who were near or around him, the full assurance of a man. His characteristics might be compared to a deep, clear stream, moving still, but strong; often overflowing, but only to enrich the fields that it flooded. His lofty brow enshrined a well balanced mind and the great soul of an exemplary and unassuming man. He was a stanch friend of the poor and oppressed and a stout defender of free thought and the broadest religious toleration.

Seth Hunt

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

By Arthur G. Hill.

Samuel Lapham Hill was born July thirtieth, 1806, in that part of Smithfield, R. I., which has since been taken to form the town of Lincoln. Since 1763, the family had owned the poor, rocky farm from which his father and mother, Samuel and Olive (Lapham) Hill, now derived their scanty support. He was the sixth Samuel in the direct line of descent, and was first known as Samuel Hill, Jr. As each of the several Samuels had also been known as "Junior" in early life, the confusion was great

when wishing to refer to a particular individual. This led our sixth Samuel to adopt Lapham as a middle name. The early history of the name Hill is obscure, but tradition says the name was originally Hillsgrove, and that twelve brothers of that name came from England at an early date and settled near Newburyport, Mass. After a while by curtailment the name became Hills and remained thus for several generations, when one of the earlier Samuels dropped the "s."

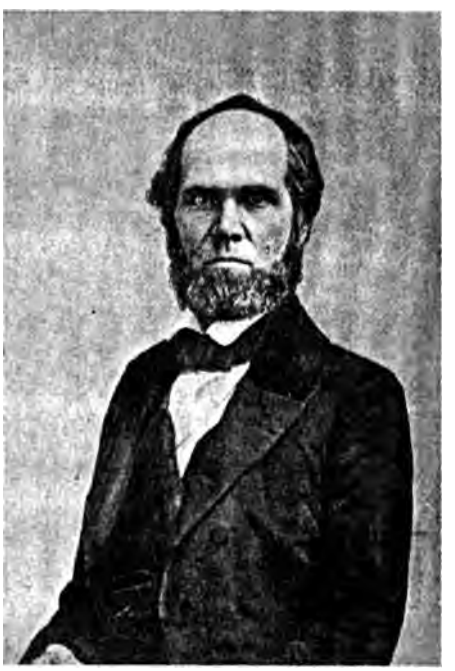
The returns from the farm were extremely limited, and early in life each son had learned the carpenter's trade, at which he worked when calls came for his services from the neighboring thinly settled towns. The Hill family were Friends or Quakers, and the simplicity of the dress, tastes, and requirements of these pure religionists left impressions on the mind of Samuel L. that remained with him through life. Like most of the boys of his time he had few chances for learning, and attendance at a small country school during the winter terms, for a few years, gave him the most of the education with which he worked his way upward.

At an early age the family needed his services to aid in providing the necessaries of life. Hard labor on the farm and work as a journeyman carpenter kept him busy during his youth and early manhood. His well-filled tool-chest, most of the tools in which were made or put together by him, always remained in his possession, and in later years was often opened, and the tools used with the pleasure and satisfaction that only his early associations with them could have given him.

When about eighteen years of age his desire for a better education led him to save from his earnings enough to enable him to attend for a few months the well known Leicester Academy, in Worcester County, Mass. Before he had attained his majority he purchased the remainder of his time from his father and married Miss Louisa Chace, of Smithfield. As Miss Chace was not a member of the society of Friends, he suffered expulsion from his birthright membership in the church. He, however, always retained his early reverent spirit, and, though his religious ideas grew and broadened with his expanding life, deep reverence and humility were marked traits in his character. Feeling a necessity to do something in the higher work, soon after he became an active member and worker in the Baptist church.

During his early manhood he worked at his carpenter's trade, taught village schools and writing classes and kept a small country store, all in the vicinity of his native place. In 1830 he became an under overseer in a cotton factory and soon thereafter removed to Willimantic, where he became respectively overseer, superintendent, and manager of a cotton factory, and thus made his beginning in his long and successful career as a leader in manufacturing industries.

In Willimantic he became prominent in church and village work and did much to encourage his associates and workmen to lead better and purer lives. The spoken and written words of Garrison, Phillips, Burleigh, Pillsbury, Whittier, and other mighty teachers of "Whatsoever ye would that men should do unto you, do ye even so to them," appealed forcibly to him. He became deeply in sympathy with the enslaved colored people and endeavored to get the Baptist society in which he was a popular deacon to place itself on the side of the downtrodden. As an officer of the church he opened its doors to the gifted Wendell Phillips. The anti-slavery lecture was disturbed and broken up, and the auditors driven from the church under a shower of rotten eggs, by a church mob headed by a brother deacon. This treatment, so foreign to the professions of his associates, so saddened and disheartened Mr. Hill in his church work, that he formally withdrew from the Baptist society and never again allowed his great mind and heart to be trammeled by a church creed, although his ideals were never lowered and his life was forever devoted to the uplifting of his brother man.



SAMUEL L. HILL.
From Ambrotype taken about 1850.

He was an earnest reader of the progressive thoughts of the time and became familiar with the great men that were molding the age. Their words were incentives to him for higher and greater work. About this time coöperative and communistic ideas were being advanced and many writers advocating them. Mr. Hill became an earnest believer in the theory of these twin ideas. Although all attempts at making them practical had failed, he had faith that the times were propitious for another and more successful attempt at harmonizing humanity. For some time he had been in correspondence with others equally convinced of the benefit of a communistic society, and with the express purpose of forming one Mr. Hill moved to Florence from Willimantic in the spring of 1841. In the following year he

cast in his lot with others to organize the "Northampton Association of Education and Industry." Mr. Hill, from his experience, thoughtfulness, and zeal, took a prominent part in the instructive and elevating work of the association, and was pre-eminently one of its great leaders. The branches of manufacturing that took his time and attention beyond what was required of him as treasurer were the silk industry, the sawmills, and the gristmills, all of which proved moderately successful.

Upon the breaking up of the association, Mr. Hill interested his brother-in-law, Edwin Eaton, of Chaplin, Conn., in joining him in the purchase of the flat table-lands which form the center of Florence. This land was plotted, streets laid out, building lots sold as they were needed by the gradually increasing population, and financial assistance given to the worthy settler, to enable him to make a home of his own. It was a strong desire of Mr. Hill that every man of family should own his little home place, and his influence was thus extended. He had great pleasure in seeing the growing number of houses that owed an existence to his encouraging words and sympathetic money loans. The faithfulness with which the loans were regularly paid in the small amounts, from time to time, as they could be saved for this purpose, kept alive in him his great faith in the people.



HILL RESIDENCE IN 1869.

When the Community dissolved he continued the silk business, but soon (1850) had his feet swept from under him by the failure of a brother manufacturer, whom he had assisted, and on whose notes he was an indorser. He carefully looked his affairs over, made his estimates and decided that under ordinary circumstances, by the strictest economy, he would be able, if allowed to continue, to pay all his indebtedness in a very few years. He visited his creditors, obtained a five years extension of time in which to pay them, and commenced anew a hard, self-denying, upward climb. Mr. Samuel L. Hinckley, a wealthy resident of Northampton, having confidence in him, furnished working capital and the firm of Hill & Hinckley became favorably known in the business world.

Within five years, by his indomitable energy, perseverance, and frugality, he paid off, one by one, each creditor. The chest of tea presented to him by the last creditor, a New York raw silk importer who held the last of the old obligations, became the symbol to him of the completion of a long contest in which he had proved a conqueror. Desiring to extend the silk business, more capital was raised, several parties admitted, and the "Nonotuck Silk Company" incorporated. Samuel L. Hinckley was its first president, and Samuel L. Hill its treasurer and manager.



SAMUEL LAPHAM HILL.
From Photograph taken 1868.

Mr. Hill's mind, hands, money, and influence became interested in everything that pertained to Florence and the public good throughout Northampton. He took a deep interest in school matters. On many occasions he contributed largely to the school funds. School subjects were almost the only ones that he allowed himself to speak upon in the town meetings, as he dreaded the ordeal of appearing before the people as a speaker. Though a broad and deep thinker his modest utterances embarrassed him. When possible he would put his thoughts on paper and read them in preference to off-hand arguments. For many years he was on the school board, but would accept no other office in the town or state, although frequently urged to be a candidate for representative. On two occasions he was elected selectman, against his wishes, and promptly declined the office.

In the latter part of his life he was deeply considering what his final contribution to the school interests of the town should be. He interviewed many educated persons and carefully looked into the educational wants of the times. From the many theories and experiments with which he had become acquainted, he thought the following of great importance: A thoroughly equipped college for scientific research; an institute in which physical culture should accompany a high literary curriculum; an agricultural college; a manual training school, and a

trades school, where young people should be taught to work with their hands as well as with their minds. The college for scientific research he at length dropped from his list, thinking that the schools already existing afforded the needed opportunity in this direction. He also found that the amount required to establish such a college would be more than he could command. The physical culture school he left for some one else to develop, although he thought it was much needed. He foresaw that the state agricultural college, and the prospective early use of the Oliver Smith agricultural fund, would render another school of this kind in Western Massachusetts unnecessary. Manual training and education in trades were favorite ideas with him to the last, but the various attempts to embody them in a systematic course had not culminated in complete success anywhere. He therefore referred this subject to his trustees, to whom he addressed a communication asking them to assist in the development of any system in this line that should seem practicable.



In his final conclusion he turned to the kindergarten method of Friedrich Froebel, as a more natural beginning for a child, than the system in vogue. He gave this method a practical test for a few years under his own observation, and that of persons in whose judgment he had confidence. Later he founded the Florence kindergarten.

Mr. Hill, as has been mentioned, was a birthright member of the Society of Friends. He afterwards adopted the doctrines, ordinances, and covenants of the Baptist faith. The last forty years of his life broadened his views until the brotherhood of man and his intimate relation with the pervading Spirit of the universe were clearly and simply defined in his mind and heart.

He was one of the originators and most generous supporters of the Free Congregational Society, and frequently aided all religious ideas that seemed to him broad enough for the needs of the people. His earnestness in all things made him so devoted to his business that he always carried his cares about with him. This finally reacted upon his health, and, the last fifteen years of his life, caused a vigorous struggle against the encroaching disease, a struggle that occasionally care and change of climate seemed to affect, but in which disease finally came off the victor. The brave, conscientious man yielded up his life calmly and philosophically, without a murmur or dread of the future, at Citronelle, Alabama, December thirteenth, 1882, aged seventy-six years.

Upon the death of his first wife, he remained for a while a widower,

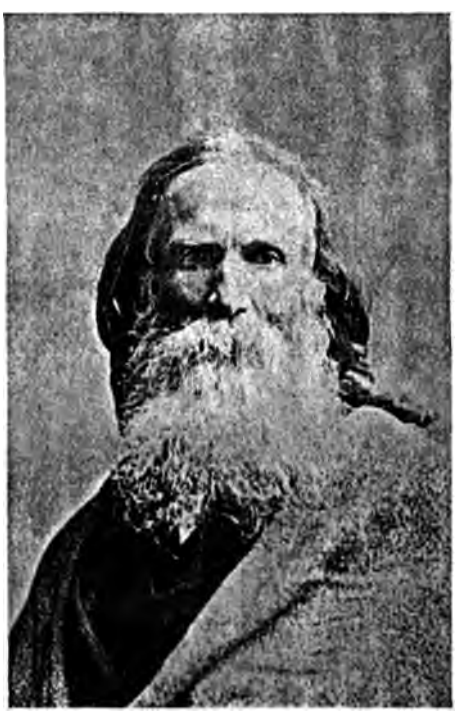
but finally married Roxana Maria Gaylord of Ashford, Conn. She died eight years after the marriage. Two daughters and a son survived him, all living in the village of Florence.

His life and career make an interesting study, and his record is that of a strong, earnest thinking, humane man.

CHARLES C. BURLEIGH.

By Seth Hunt.

As a logical thinker and an eloquent public speaker, Charles C. Burleigh probably surpassed any one that ever lived in Northampton. Few men, anywhere, could so readily and ably extemporize in a public speech as that brave champion of civil and religious freedom. Some of his most brilliant and effective speeches were made on the spur of the moment. In discussing any question he was noted for stating the strongest points of his opponents, and effectually answering them, so that when he had finished it seemed that nothing more could be said. The arguments on both sides would be exhausted. His diction was clear and finished.



CHARLES C. BURLEIGH.

Charles C. Burleigh was born at Plainfield, Conn., November third, 1810, and died at Florence, Mass., June thirteenth, 1878. He was from a family of marked mental gifts. His brothers were all noted for their talents. His father was a graduate of Yale College, and became distinguished as a teacher of Plainfield academy. His mother, Lydia Bradford, was a lineal descendant of Gov. William Bradford, one of the Mayflower Pilgrims. Governor Bradford's qualities as a dissenter, a promoter of peace and a lover of liberty seemed to

have reappeared in Charles C. Burleigh, to be manifested under different circumstances, but still by one and the same spirit as that which brought Governor Bradford to the shores of Plymouth.

At the time of the persecution of Prudence Crandall for admitting a colored girl into her school at Canterbury, Conn., which persecution was followed by the enactment of the unconstitutional "Black Law" of the state, Samuel J. May, aided by Arthur Tappan, had decided to publish a paper to be devoted to the defense of human rights in general, and the Canterbury school in particular. Having seen an admirable article that was written by Charles C. Burleigh, and heard him commended as a young man of great promise; and having listened to an able speech from him, Mr. May decided that Charles C. Burleigh was the man for editor of the new paper. Mr. May says: "I drove over to Plainfield, from Brooklyn, Conn.; Mr. Burleigh was living with his parents and helping them carry on their farm, while pursuing as he could his studies preparatory to the profession of a lawyer. It was Friday of the week, in the midst of haying time. I was told at the house that he was in the field as busy as he could be. Nevertheless, I insisted that my business with him was more important than haying. So he was sent for, and in due time appeared. Like other sensible men at the hard, hot work of haying, he was not attired in his Sunday clothes, but in his shirt sleeves, with pants the worse for wear; and although he then believed in shaving no razor had touched his beard since the first day of the week. Nevertheless, I do not believe that Samuel, of old, saw in the ruddy son of Jesse, as he came up from the sheepfold, the man whom the Lord would have him anoint, more clearly than I saw in C. C. Burleigh the man whom I should choose to be my assistant in that emergency. So soon as I had told him what I wanted of him, his eye kindled as if eager for the conflict. We made an arrangement to supply his place on his father's farm, and he engaged to come to me early the following week. He then put on the harness of a soldier in the good fight for equal, impartial liberty * * nor are there many, if any, of the anti-slavery warriors who have done more or better service than Mr. Burleigh."



CHARLES C. BURLEIGH, JR., ARTIST.

Mr. Burleigh had early fixed upon the legal profession for his life

vocation. When he was admitted to the bar in Windham County, Conn., in January, 1835, his examiners were surprised at the extent of his acquirements, and he was pronounced the best prepared candidate that had been admitted to the bar in that county within the memory of those then practicing there. But, notwithstanding all his bright prospects of success and fame in his chosen profession, when he was asked to engage as lecturer in the anti-slavery cause, and while fully aware of the hardships and persecutions that would befall him, he replied: "This is not what I expected or intended, but it is what I ought to do; I will accept the invitation."

Although a peace man, he was fearless and self-possessed in times of danger. He stood by William Lloyd Garrison and gave him timely aid when Mr. Garrison's life was in great peril from the great Boston mob. Mr. Burleigh himself was many times exposed to personal injuries by his pro-slavery enemies. Once while speaking in an anti-slavery meeting, a bad egg, hurled by an enemy, struck Mr. Burleigh on the forehead. Coolly wiping his brow, he said: "I always thought that pro-slavery arguments were unsound."

Mr. Burleigh was the first resident speaker of the Free Congregational Society of Florence. He held the office for ten years, and had often addressed Sunday meetings in Florence before the organization of that society.

His personal appearance was striking. He had a fine, animated countenance, mirroring an active mind and a great soul. He was tall and his frame bore the impress of great physical strength and endurance. Of no one could it be more truthfully said, that "he had the courage of his convictions." What he deemed proper to do, whether in matters of dress, of personal appearance and habits, or in regard to political, social, or religious concerns, he unhesitatingly carried out, however strange his course might appear to those with whom he came in contact. I remember his wearing a full beard, long before such a practice was considered becoming or proper. He also wore his hair long and in ringlets.

His religious views were, in some respects, similar to those held by Unitarians. Probably few professing Christians have imitated more nearly than he did, the life of Jesus as recorded in the New Testament. He thoroughly believed, and, as occasion demanded, ably defended the broad principles of religious freedom laid down in the platform of the Free Congregational Society of Florence.

Mr. Burleigh's lamentable death was caused by his being struck by a railroad train at Florence, while he was hurrying to the station to post a letter. The funeral services were held in Cosmian Hall and were attended by a large concourse of people. Addresses were made by

William Lloyd Garrison, Samuel May, Mrs. Elizabeth Powell Bond, and Rev. E. G. Cobb, pastor of the Orthodox church at Florence. The remains were buried in the old Florence cemetery, by the side of Mr. Burleigh's beloved and devoted wife, whose rare mental gifts and brave consecration to reformatory movements made her a worthy helpmate. As their joint epitaph records, they were "truly one in work and spirit."

DANIEL GREENE LITTLEFIELD.

BY THE EDITOR.

DANIEL GREENE LITTLEFIELD was born in North Kingstown, R. I., November twenty-third, 1822. He was the third son of the family of eleven children of John and Deborah (Himes) Littlefield. Left to the sole care of their mother, her children were brought up according to the accepted New England idea of youthful training. At the age of eight, Daniel went to work in the Jackson cotton factory in the town of Scituate, where his parents then resided. Even at this tender age he gave evidence of those sterling qualities that were so characteristic of him in his maturer years. His fidelity and determination to master every detail of the business were marked. For over twenty years he labored in cotton and woolen mills, and machine shops, and made himself thoroughly acquainted with whatever business he was engaged in and with whatever machine he worked upon. Naturally of a mechanical and inventive turn of mind, his early training and experience proved of great value to him in after years. From bobbin boy he became secondhand, overseer, and superintendent. In 1846 he came to Florence, and assisted in starting the cotton mill, a few months before the dissolution of the Community.



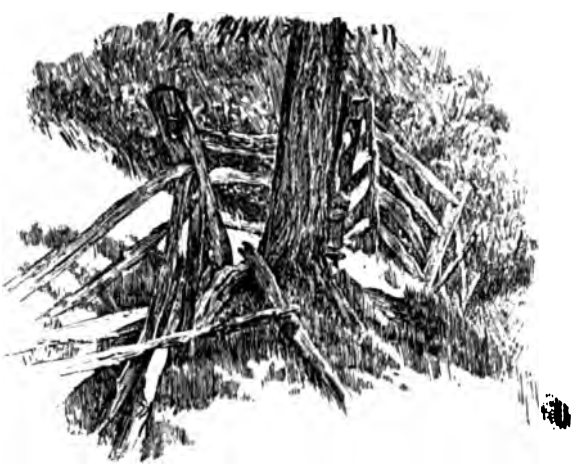
DANIEL GREENE LITTLEFIELD.

Leaving Florence he went to Northampton and engaged in the dry goods business. Two years later, his store having been destroyed by fire, he went to Haydenville and assisted in establishing a cotton mill for Hayden & Sanders. After two years in this mill, he became proprietor

of a "country variety store" in Haydenville, and later traveling salesman for Hayden & Sanders.

About 1854 he came to Florence and was employed as traveling salesman and business manager by A. P. Critchlow & Company. Shortly after he became a partner in the business, Mr. Critchlow retiring, and the name was changed to Littlefield, Parsons & Co. This firm continued business until 1866, when the Florence Manufacturing Company was formed, with Mr. Littlefield as president.

At this time he was also interested with S. L. Hill and Hiram Wells, in the manufacture of pumps and grip wrenches. The death, in 1859, of Mr. Wells, by the boiler explosion, ended the pump business, and as the Florence sewing machine was just materializing, Mr. Littlefield turned his energies in that direction. He was one of the founders of the Florence Sewing Machine Company, and, on the retirement of Mr. Hill from the business, he became its president, which position he held up to the time of his death in May, 1891.



BY THE OLD RAIL FENCE.

A friend of his, a few years ago, accompanied him to this place when he came on a business trip to inspect the various establishments wherein he was interested, and heard this testimony volunteered by some of his associates: "Mr. Littlefield is never satisfied with any device he employs till he thoroughly understands its workings, and contrives modes to increase its effectiveness."

In 1861 he represented Northampton in the lower house of the legislature, and was re-elected the following year. In March, 1889, he was the nominee of the Republican party of Rhode Island for lieutenant governor, and, there being no election by the people, he was elected by the General Assembly.

In 1863, at the repeated solicitation of gentlemen representing the Pawtucket Hair Cloth Company, Mr. Littlefield went to Pawtucket to undertake the work of perfecting the complex machinery of that company. He made arrangements to remain one year. He remained there

permanently. He retained his interest in several manufactories in Florence, which were mainly of his own creation. In 1865 he visited Europe in the interests of the Pawtucket Hair Cloth Company, and repeated the trip in the years 1866, 1868, 1871, and 1872, visiting all the principal countries of Europe. The valuable information he obtained for that company made the concern the only complete plant of its kind in the world.

In 1878 he went to France as honorary commissioner from Rhode Island to the Paris exposition. Here his reputation had preceded him, and immediately upon his arrival he was appointed an American juror of small and fine machinery, and mechanism of all nations. His work on this board was of much value to American inventors.

"Intensely and practically one of our self-made business men and a successful manufacturer, Mr. Littlefield was essentially a man of the people, modest and unassuming, at all times approachable, and a courteous listener." At home as well as abroad honors came to him unsought. At the time of his death he was president of no less than seven corporations. "He was a skillful organizer and a wise arbitrator, and his decisions in important cases where his judgment and counsel were sought were always sound and acceptable to all concerned."

Mr. Littlefield was a man of magnificent physical proportions. Standing more than six feet in height, his commanding presence was always permeated with genuine kindliness of heart that inspired the respect and admiration of all with whom he came in contact. He was twice married. His second wife and a son and daughter survive him. His mother, a woman of sterling worth, died in January, 1891, at the ripe age of ninety-three years. Mr. Littlefield was a member and trustee of the Pawtucket Congregational Society, and was a liberal provider for the support of church and society.

It may seem to some that Mr. Littlefield devoted his life to work outside our village. What he did for Florence should be reckoned by the prosperity of our manufacturing concerns, which have known his guidance, and have looked to him for support.

ALFRED THEODORE LILLY.

FROM THE "MEMORIAL."

ALFRED THEODORE LILLY was born in Mansfield, Connecticut, April fifteenth, 1813. His mother's maiden name was Jerusha Swift.

His father, Alfred Lilly, was a blacksmith, and made screw augers

and auger bits, and later manufactured silk at Mansfield. The company failed in 1838, Mr. Lilly losing all his property.

Alfred Theodore attended the summer and winter terms of the district school until he was twelve years old, and the winter terms until he was seventeen. When he ceased to attend school he worked for his father at auger and bit making until he was twenty-one. Then he worked for his father as a journeyman about a year, until the failure, when the burden of supporting the family fell upon his shoulders. He continued the auger and bit business, borrowed a small sum of money, and for fifteen years applied himself closely to this business. No defective work was allowed to leave the shop; he was punctual in all his affairs no matter how trivial; and he gained at once a reputation for integrity from all who knew him.



ALFRED THEODORE LILLY.

His health failed, however, and in 1850 he was obliged to give up the business. He became superintendent for one year of the Rixford & Butler Silk Manufacturing Company, at Mansfield Center, and then accepted a position as traveling salesman for a Mansfield silk manufacturer. After this he went to Providence, R. I., and opened a retail grocery store, where he remained until the spring of 1853, when he came to Florence, as a superintendent of the Nonotuck Silk Company, remaining with the company until his health failed, February 1, 1887. After a few years, Mr. Hill asked Mr. Lilly to assist as treasurer and general manager of the company; he purchased a small interest in the business and was allowed to pay for it as he was able. In 1865 Mr. Hill appointed him acting treasurer, and he was elected treasurer of the company in 1872.

Mr. Lilly did not acquire wealth as soon as he came to Florence. During the early part of the time it was difficult for him to meet his obligations; his own family, his father, mother, and sisters receiving his

assistance. He did a great deal more than is publicly known to aid others in various ways.

This desire to assist others led him to become a stockholder and director in the Florence Furniture Company in 1873. The company was not successful the first year, and it was due to Mr. Lilly, and a few others, that it became prosperous. Mr. Lilly was its president from the time of its organization to his death.

He was one of the original incorporators of the Florence Savings Bank, and always took an active interest in the public business of the town ; voted at all elections, but always declined public office. In all his transactions he was thorough, punctual, and always reliable. From boyhood he was strictly temperate, using neither tobacco nor intoxicating liquor in any form.

In 1859 Mr. Lilly assisted in establishing the evening schools here, and in 1869 served on the committee appointed to erect the Memorial Hall and Library, in Northampton. He was a charter member of the Free Congregational Society, and, when this society built Cosmian Hall, he gave ten thousand dollars towards the building, and during his life contributed generously to its support. In his will he provided for an annual payment to the society. He was a trustee of the Florence kindergarten, and at his death left all his estate to these trustees to be used for educational purposes.



LILLY DRUM CORPS.

In 1884 Mr. Lilly learned that Smith College needed a building for scientific purposes, and, a year later, finding that President Seelye had not obtained the necessary money for the erection of a science building, he furnished the desired amount. In 1886 Lilly Hall of Science, a fine structure, suitable for the needs of the college, was dedicated with appropriate exercises.

No biographical sketch of Mr. Lilly would be complete without more

than an incidental reference to his home and domestic life. He was married at Hebron, Conn., in 1838, to Lucy Maria Crane, daughter of Isaac and Constantia (Young) Crane of that town. Mrs. Lilly was a quiet, thoughtful, kind-hearted woman, highly esteemed by all who knew her. To his friends, Mr. Lilly often spoke of the cheerfulness with which she practiced economy and self-denial in their early married life that he might aid his father and mother, and often remarked that he owed his prosperity to his wife. This home was to him of the utmost importance. He could not have applied himself so continually to the active, responsible work had it not been for the rest and recreation of his home, and those who had claims on his hospitality remarked that it was a delight to notice the cheerfulness and consideration which he showed for their comfort and enjoyment. Mr. and Mrs. Lilly had no children. Mrs. Mary Valentine Ross had her home with them for a number of years before her marriage. Mrs. Ross's children were a great comfort to Mr. and Mrs. Lilly in their declining years. Mrs. Lilly died in 1886. After this Mr. Lilly seemed to be alone. He tried to be cheerful and bear the sorrow without outward manifestations, but to his intimate friends he sometimes disclosed the great grief which oppressed him.

Early in the fall of 1888, he arranged for the erection of the library building which bears his name, giving thirteen thousand dollars for the purpose, and the same season he provided by his will for the disposition of his estate at his death.

Thus, among his friends, surrounded by such recognitions of his useful life, his strength gradually failed until the end came, January twenty-first, 1890.

ALFRED P. CRITCHLOW.

By George P. Warner.

Alfred P. Critchlow was born in Nottingham, Eng., in 1813. His father was a silk stocking weaver. His mother died when he was a lad of nine years. At fourteen, he was apprenticed to a die sinker, and served the required seven years' apprenticeship. On becoming of age, he engaged in the horn button business in Birmingham, and was carrying it on successfully, when, in 1843, he met the late Josiah Hayden, who induced him to emigrate, and start the manufacture of horn buttons in Haydenville. At this time his family consisted of his wife and two small children, and their experiences during the six weeks' trip across the

stormy Atlantic in a sailing vessel were ever after the subject of frequent joking and merriment by Mr. Critchlow.

He made buttons for the Haydens for two or three years, and then moved to Florence, and commenced manufacturing wood buttons, making them from the common wild laurel found in the woods. Soon he invented a composition suitable for making buttons, and machinery and appliances for its proper manipulation, and began manufacturing buttons and daguerreotype cases. He made of this business a decided success, giving it untiring personal attention; running the mill night and day, much of the time with two sets of hands, and frequently sleeping at the mill, where he could be called upon quickly in case of emergency. Samuel L. Hill was interested in this business with him, and later Mr. Isaac Parsons and D. G. Littlefield, to whom he finally sold out in 1857.



ALFRED P. CRITCHLOW.

While living in Florence, he became quite a landholder, owning a large tract extending from Park street to the river. On this and other tracts he erected several houses. Most of the time he lived in the house he built on the site of Mr. Samuel Porter's brick residence. He was connected with the local station of the underground railroad, being by nature sympathetic and helpful, and believing that all men are born free and equal. His broad views unfitted him for living under a monarchial form of government, gave him little respect for royalty, and were the chief reasons for his coming to America.

Mr. Critchlow always treated his help kindly, and was greatly respected and beloved by them. A little story shows this, as well as his own personal courage. One night at the mill, two workmen quarreled and finally came to blows just as Mr. Critchlow put in an appearance. He at once jumped right between them, called a halt, and was instantly obeyed by both, whose feelings of anger gave place to shame and confusion. As the combatants were large men, one being a stalwart six-footer of pugnacious propensities, and as Mr. Critchlow was very short, the spectacle presented had a decidedly ludicrous side.

After selling out his business in Florence, he visited his native land, and, on his return in 1858, bought one of the old woolen mills in Leeds,

and commenced manufacturing vegetable ivory buttons, continuing the business about fifteen years. This was the first ivory button factory in this country, and business was so successful that within five years a second mill was built. Previous to the flood of 1874 he owned quite a portion of Leeds, and was worth, at least, one hundred thousand dollars. In 1870, on account of failing health, he withdrew from active work, and spent eighteen months in England. Later he traveled in South America, but never fully recovered his health. After rebuilding the mills which the flood destroyed, Mr. Critchlow held a leading position in the factory till his death in March, 1881.

Although small of stature, he was a man of broad mind and large heart, and his charities were neither few nor small. Many have been helped by him in time of trouble or sickness, and, like all generous souls, he was sometimes victimized by the unappreciative or undeserving. He had a "genius for hard work," as well as a wonderfully fertile and inventive mind. These traits showed themselves in whatever business he engaged in, whether agriculture, horticulture, or mechanics. He had also a practical knowledge of chemistry. He was a natural pioneer, sowing seed that would bear fruit. The present Florence Manufacturing Company is the outgrowth of the business he established.

Mrs. Critchlow and two daughters are still living, Mrs. Naramore of Perth Amboy, N. J., and Mrs. Warner, wife of George P. Warner, formerly of Leeds, now living in Denver, Colorado, with whom Mrs. Critchlow resides.

ELISHA LIVERMORE HAMMOND.

By Harriet B. Gardner.

"The grass may grow o'er the lowly bed,
Where the noblest Roman hath laid his head,
But mind and thought,—a nation's mind
Embalm the lover of mankind."

Elisha Livermore Hammond was born in Newton, Mass., December twenty-ninth, 1779. He was the oldest of a family of ten children and his education was limited to a short period in the district school. Quite early in life he worked at stucco work in Boston, and having an artistic temperament took lessons for some time of Chester Harding, the artist. For his second wife he married Eliza Preston, daughter of Dr. John Preston, of New Ipswich, New Hampshire. He was living in a pleasant home, earned by years of hard labor, devoting his time to managing a

New England farm and painting portraits, for which he had a decided talent; and, being an ardent abolitionist and an enthusiastic temperance reformer, he was quite ready, when the claims of the "Northampton Association for Education and Industry" were presented to him in glowing colors, to sell his home at a sacrifice and follow, as he thought, the teachings of the greatest reformer the world has ever known. This appeared to him the beginning of the reign of heaven upon earth, universal brotherhood. I think, more than any man I ever knew, he tried to follow Christ's teaching literally. He could not twist and turn them to suit his life; he must make his everyday living conform to them.

He joined the association in 1844, and proved a valuable member, always taking an active interest in its welfare, and doing what he could to promote harmony in the "heterogeneous mass of people of all ages, colors, and conditions of life," as he was wont to call them. Although Community life fell short of his ideal, he never lost faith in the association's broad platform, and though he knew the human race must cast off much of its selfishness before such a scheme could succeed, while poorer in purse, he always felt richer in soul for having been one of its members. He fully accepted the closing words of Bronson Alcott's speech in Florence a few years ago. Mr. Alcott, after giving a little sketch of his life, of the many "isms" he had tried and found wanting, of a visit he made to the old Community, thinking that was to be the millennium upon earth, now, in his old age, declared that he had winnowed them all down to this simple doctrine, "The kingdom of heaven is within."



ELISHA L. HAMMOND.
From a Painting by himself.

After leaving the association he built his little cottage in Florence and lived there with his devoted wife about thirty-five years. Always a worker with his hands, he managed by strict economy to keep his pleasant home, devoting much time and labor to the many good causes which appealed to his sympathies.

On the subjects of temperance and tobacco he was a radical of the radicals. Here is a characteristic paragraph from his journal:—

"Tobacco is yet too respectable to be talked about. Rum used to be, but it does behave so badly that its conduct is spoken against now by many respect-

able people, and when women come to the front they will open wide the doors and sweep it out. Hasten the day!"

The following brief paragraphs taken at random from his journal suggest his habits of thought and the underlying principles that controlled his action, yet he was not a man of theories, and it might almost be said that his theories were the result of his own experience, of his daily life.

"My investments in silver and gold have not been successful, but my investments in humanity have been yielding a percentage quite satisfactory and remunerative."

"On my platform every human being shall have the privilege of explaining his or her individual convictions. I do not feel I have any right or authority delegated to me to coerce my fellow beings, or do anything that shall disturb their religion or diminish their hopes."

"Honesty is a lost art. It used to be considered a desirable quality adorning the character of any human being, if for no higher motive than policy. Now it is dispensed with altogether."

I find this last record in his journal dated July tenth, 1882 :—

"One week ago, the anniversary of my wife's death, I left my Florence home for a home with my adopted children in Brightwood. Owing to my feeble health the old house had lost its charm for me, and the new home seems the most restful place, till I hear the summons, 'Come up higher.'"

So full of faith was he that what we call death was for him only the setting forth upon a pleasantly anticipated journey concerning which he had no shadow of doubt or misgiving. It was by his own request that his burial was absolutely without ceremony.

The following is an extract from an address by a friend in his old home, New Ipswich :—

"Such a one, not unknown to some of you, once walked our streets whose hand was ready and strong in every good work; a skillful artisan, a sound thinker, an earnest speaker in his plain, straightforward way, always in the front rank for freedom, temperance, and all reforms. After he had reached the age of fourscore years, looking back upon the scene as nearly ended, honored and loved by all who knew him, he exclaimed: 'I fear my life has been a failure.' Can you wonder if in the minds of those who heard him, the response at once sprang up, 'A life like yours is of the highest type'?"

Another friend, immediately after his death, wrote :—

"He was a man of strong individuality, possessing remarkable characteristics; his intellectual endowments and attainments, together with his acute moral and social susceptibilities, rendering his position in society one of peculiar bearing and influence. His temperament was naturally very sanguine and hopeful. His impulses were quick and earnest; his humanity broad as the world, and of con-

stant, untiring activity; while his sympathies possessed a feminine sweetness and tenderness. He was the coadjutor and companion of Garrison, Foster, Phillips, Burleigh, Pillsbury, and other noble pioneers of the anti-slavery cause. 'Let justice be done though the heavens fall,' was the watchword of his life."

MARY WHITE BOND.

By Martha Bryant Cary.

Mary White Bond was born at Canterbury, Conn., May twenty-first, 1836, and died at Florence, Mass., September twenty-fifth, 1891. Her father, Daniel Herrick Bond, was a descendant of Henry Herrick of Salem, who came to this country in 1629. The ancestry of the Herrick family is traced to Eric the Forester, and later to Sir William Herrick, who was connected with the court of Queen Elizabeth in 1575, a member of Parliament from 1601 to 1630, and continued his connection with the government through the reign of James I. It is an interesting fact that the coat of arms of the Herrick family bears the motto, "*Virtus nobilitat omnia.*" Mary White Bond inherited many of the qualities of her far-away ancestors, and was a marked illustration of the truthfulness of the motto upon the Herrick coat of arms—"Virtue ennobles all."



HAILSTONES OF THE GREAT STORM, JUNE 20, '70.*

The first paternal ancestor in this country was William Bond, son of Thomas Bond, of Bury Saint Edmunds, England, who came to Watertown, Mass., in 1630, with the first settlers of that town. He was selectman, town clerk, a captain of a company of horse, a justice of the peace, a member of the council of safety in 1689, often chosen a representative to the General Court, and four times elected speaker of that body. His grandson, Nathaniel Bond, sold his property in Watertown, and removed to Canterbury, Conn., in 1710. Bethuel Bond, grandson of Nathaniel, married Ruth Herrick, one of whose children was Daniel Herrick Bond.

* In this picture are two hens' eggs, one at the extreme left, and one in the background, showing the comparative size of the hailstones, which were only average specimens. Stones formed in Northampton and Florence larger than anywhere else in the line of the storm.

Mary White Bond's mother, Deborah White, was the daughter of George Savage White, who came with his family from England to this country in 1812. He was an Episcopal clergyman, and preached in various places in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut. Her mother died when Mary was thirteen years old, leaving seven children, the youngest, Henry, being not quite two years old. Her father never married again, and she remained with him and the children, caring for them and maintaining the home. Her influence upon her brothers and sisters was, perhaps, the most important part of her life work, and they all lived to recognize their great obligation to her for her unceasing exertions for their welfare.

She inherited the strong mental qualities of her mother's family, and the love of study and independence of thought of her father, at an early age manifesting an eager desire for knowledge. All books within her reach were read, and many often re-read. She early became familiar with history, poetry, and many of the standard works of prose, while later she pursued the study of botany, mathematics, and German, acquiring familiarity with the works of the best German authors, and conversing readily in that language. In her knowledge of Shakespeare and the literature pertaining to his works, she was the equal of some of the best scholars of the day.



MARY WHITE BOND.

Her career as a school-teacher commenced in 1858 and continued until 1872, first in her native town, afterwards in Farmington, Conn., and, in 1864, she came to Florence, where she was made principal of its public schools. She was an ideal educator, developing in her pupils an enthusiastic interest in their studies, and an earnest desire for knowledge. Many "self-made" men and women to-day delight to do her memory honor by giving to her the credit of making the right suggestion at the right time, which sent them forth with new light and courage to make their way in life.

She saw little of the world by travel, yet she possessed all the culture, refinement, and ease of manners which are usually acquired only by those who have the leisure for extensive reading, travel, and social intercourse. By a liberal purchase of books and photographs of the best

works of art, and by subscription to the best periodicals and newspapers of the day, she brought to herself the world she had never visited.

Miss Bond was the first woman elected a member of the school committee of Northampton, and continued in that position by re-election to the time of her death. She was selected by Alfred T. Lilly as one of the trustees of the Lilly Library Association, and devoted her time and talent to the end that the generous gift of Lilly Library to Florence should be a positive factor in the promotion of the cause of education in the village, serving as a member of the book committee, and exercising great care in the selection of books which would be of value to the school children in their studies. During the last year of her life, she formed a plan for additional educational facilities in Florence, under the scheme known as university extension, but her death prevented its execution.

In 1873, when the Florence Savings Bank was organized, her brother, Henry Herrick Bond, was chosen treasurer, but the work was largely performed by his sister, and after his death, in 1882, she was chosen treasurer of the bank, being the first woman ever elected to such an office. This position she occupied during the remainder of her life.

Here she might always be found before business hours, ready to accommodate those whose convenience required an early call. Here depositors of all ages were encouraged to come with their savings, however small. Here, too, she came in contact with almost every phase of human character, and in her not only the educated and the rich, but the ignorant and the poor, found a cheering, inspiring, and sympathetic friend. She recognized true nobility under the roughest exterior, and, though possessing intellectual gifts and social graces that made her the peer of the highest, she was never "bored" by the society of the humblest. In her large heart there was room for all.

In the midst of her arduous and faithful labors in school and at the bank, Miss Bond found time to conduct free classes in several branches of study for the benefit of her young friends, some of whom met with her, with only occasional interruptions, during a period of nearly twenty years. In this way she taught botany, gathering her pupils about her in her office after business hours, and in favorable weather going with them on Saturday afternoon to gather and analyze specimens afforded by the fields and woods of Florence. The class in German met at her home one evening in each week for fifteen years, and during that time she had the pleasure of seeing some of her pupils progress from the "First German Reader" to familiarity with the best writers in that language. How thrilling the memory of those delightful hours when we, her privileged pupils, were wont to gather in a friendly circle about the ample table, to

partake of the feast thus freely and generously offered! What pleasure from time to time to steal a glance at her sweet, strong, benign face, as she bent in absorbed attention over the book before her!

For eighteen years she conducted a class in Shakespeare, meeting with her pupils once a week, and it was in this class possibly more than in either of the others, that they learned something of the depth and richness of her intellect, and the beauty and nobility of her character. Henceforth life possessed for them a new and greater meaning. She gave them higher ideals to live by and nobler ends to work for.

Not the least of her services to others was her work as superintendent of the Sunday-school of the Free Congregational Society of Florence, a position requiring much time and thought, and a service book, which was her own generous gift to the school, is still used in the opening exercises.



GEORGE A. BURR.

Miss Bond liked "wide margins," as she would sometimes say, humorously, when, opening some book, she pointed to its clear print and wide margin, apparently unconscious of the deep significance of her words, the truth of which was daily illustrated in her own life. Though her work would seem to have been sufficient to absorb her whole time, she left "wide margins" for those who needed her, and for those who might call upon her for aid or sympathy.

But if all were said which gratitude and affection could prompt, the best would still remain unspoken. We knew her and knew her not. 'For that is the nobility of the great, that they cannot be divined, but send the seeker farther and farther into their own unsurveyed heavens.'

GEORGE A. BURR.

By Frank N. Look.

Almost without exception, the men who were at the head of the various manufacturing interests of the Florence of fifteen or twenty years ago have died, or have removed to other localities. Seldom is a place found having such diversified industries, where this is as true as in Flor-

ence, or where so large a portion of its active men of business are as yet in the very prime of life, able to give from their full measure of strength the best of mind and heart for the interests intrusted to them. To some of those who now bear these responsibilities, counsel, example, and strength have come from association with those who, alone and under great difficulties, shaped the successful beginnings of our industries, the heritage of whose toil and wisdom we now enjoy. To some of us have come similar qualities, from those who have laid down their work while in the possession of their full strength, and at the time for doing their best work; and, again, from others whose active life has been spent elsewhere, yet who always gave generously of time and money for Florence enterprises, influences have come that are fully appreciated by those who direct the affairs for which they labored. Rich as is this inheritance, and inspiring as is this record for character and qualities that ever make for success, as other pages in this volume witness, yet we must always regret that we have not had the benefit of the ripe experience and matured judgment of some who, loving Florence, watching her interests with loyal pride, and planning wisely for the future, have died in the prime of life, leaving to us the attainment of their anticipations.

George A. Burr was such a man, and, had his life been spared, it must have been of much advantage to this community. Mr. Burr was born in Worthington, Mass., December twelfth, 1829, and was an inheritor of those qualities that have made the true American what he is; the son of Ames Burr, one of those men of sterling character who largely made his own circumstances, instead of being made by them, whose influence was not merely local, whose sympathies were broad, and whose word was synonymous with truth.

He grew to young manhood on a farm, attending the district school and forming his love of nature that never lessened, taking to himself the strength and ambition coming from the broad outlook from the home in Worthington, with its pure air and clean surroundings.

With this equipment, he came to Northampton when fourteen years of age, and began his business career, serving as errand boy for the dry goods firm of Stoddard & Lathrop. Faithfulness to duty characterized him at the very beginning. One of his duties was to cover the windows at night with heavy wooden shutters. One morning he found a notice of warning, stating that he must be more careful of his work. Recognizing the handwriting as that of a fellow clerk, who may have thought to discourage him, or to whom the fidelity of Mr. Burr may have been a reproof, he preserved it for many years as a reminder of his early life. Fitted by the advances made in this store, he sought a wider field for his energies, which all recall who knew him during those years.

A partnership was formed with Mr. McIntyre for the purpose of handling coal, flour, and grain, occupying the brick building at the railroad crossing on Main street. Mr. Burr, though now only a young man of nineteen, at once began to increase the line of business, and early in this partnership the first carload of coal was received that was ever brought to Northampton. During this period he learned the telegraph business, and was wont to tell of his many experiences of his early work.

When Mr. Christopher Clark undertook to arrange for the extraordinary undertaking at that time of a concert by the famous Jenny Lind, it became necessary to have a liberal guarantee against financial loss, and he found in Mr. Burr a faithful ally. The concert was given with great success, and her coming led to the happy days that this sweet singer spent in Northampton, "the paradise of America."



THE GEORGE A. BURR PLACE.

Some of Mr. Burr's family having gone West, after a few years he retired from the business, and, while *en route* for the West, stopped at Bleecker, N. Y., to visit a brother, and became interested in the lumber and furniture business, in which he continued for about ten years. Hard work and great energy had built up a fair business, but the life there was not a congenial one, nor was it adapted for his family, for, at the time of his going to Bleecker, he had married Miss Sarah M. Ely of West Springfield.

The entire building and a large portion of the machinery being destroyed by fire, he at once decided to return to Northampton, and very soon afterward was elected general agent of the Florence Sewing Machine Company. Here he found an opportunity for his strength, and, under his management, this company attained great success, largely extending its business, and its capital stock increased to twice its nominal value. "Had the same honesty, integrity, and ability governed the management of the prominent local offices for the sale of machines that characterized the administration of the home office, the financial condition of the company would have proved a marvel of business prosperity." During his administration as treasurer, the script of the sewing

machine company was issued, which served as local money for some time, all but a very small amount being eventually redeemed.

Disposing largely of his stock in this company, though he continued to serve the interests of stockholders in later years, as all who knew his keen analysis of managements and men remember, he entered upon the work of his life, the management and development of the Florence Manufacturing Company. Giving to this business his entire time and matured powers, he quickly brought it to an assured success. During the fifteen years of his management, the most cordial relations existed between employer and employed, officers and stockholders. Visiting Europe several times in the interest of the business, and being in touch with the advances made in similar lines of industry, he left this business as a monument to his sagacity and wisdom in financial matters.

Mr. Burr was for a number of years on the board of assessors and selectmen. He was for many years a valued member of the board of directors of the Northampton National Bank, and, from the beginning of the Florence Savings Bank, was its vice-president.

In politics, Mr. Burr was a stanch Republican, but he never consented to the use of his name for political honors.

In his business life at home and abroad, he was honored and thoroughly respected; under all circumstances a gentleman, his large heart showing itself in his cordial greeting, a genial host, and attached to home and family with the strongest of ties.

Facing death for many months, in the full attainment of his manhood, he displayed rare graces of patience and continued thoughtfulness for others.

Mr. Burr was, throughout his life in Florence, actively interested in, and a generous supporter of, the Congregational church, giving to it and to the pastor the best of his counsel and service.

Mr. Burr died January twenty-sixth, 1881, being fifty-one years of age. His wife and three children survive him, and the memory of his life lives on in lives helped by him.

HENRY HERRICK BOND.

By Elizabeth Powell Bond.

Henry Herrick Bond was born in Canterbury, Conn., June second, 1847, the youngest child of Daniel Herrick Bond and Deborah White. He bore the name, Henry Herrick, of the Anglo-American founder of the maternal side of his father's family. The ancestral line has already been traced in the sketch of his revered sister, Mary White Bond.

The childhood of Henry Herrick Bond was passed in the quiet, rural village of Canterbury, where he attended the village school, enjoying the wholesome recreations of country boys, and, at the same time, having regular duties that supplied all his pocket money. At sixteen, he removed with his family to Florence, Mass., where his brother, Daniel W. Bond, had begun the practice of law. During his school days in Florence, he was a member of the amateur baseball nine, the "Eagles," whose competitive games became the occasion of village holidays, and whose successes and defeats were matters of pride or regret to the whole village. The strong, personal influence that was characteristic of his manhood made itself felt in his association with other youths. He did not preach against profanity, but, in his presence, the profane word was not spoken.



HENRY HERRICK BOND.

At nineteen he laid aside the bat and ball, and entered the Columbia Law School of New York, where he spent two years. The youngest member of a large class, he was the only one who never missed a lecture, and whose command of phonography enabled him to make every lecture his own. He was admitted to the bar of Northampton in 1869, and immediately commenced practice with his brother, then associated with William Allen, afterward Judge Allen of the superior court. He had a genius for hard work, not only in his own profession, but in the interests of his town, wherever his efforts might serve the community.

The Homestead Fund, beneficently established by Samuel L. Hill to aid the mechanics of Florence to secure homes, was committed to his care and direction. In 1873 the establishment of the Florence Savings Bank engaged his interest; and its complete success, under the wise methods of Miss Bond, has justified his efforts for it.

No desire for personal ease, nor for the gratification of his private tastes, ever stood in the way of his clients; and that part of his work which to a less earnest nature would have been drudgery took on the interest of determined success. He commenced arguing cases before the full bench of the supreme judicial court, in September, 1872, and appeared before the court for this purpose every year until 1878, when he made the argument in the last case on his list, and left the court house never to

return, nor to do any more professional work. His brother, Judge Bond, says of him: "It can be safely said that during the time he practiced law, no man of his age ever did more or better professional work. The presentation of his views upon questions of law was remarkably clear and forcible. A judge of the superior court of Massachusetts said that 'he could state a proposition of law as clearly as any man at the bar.' His argument for a new trial at Worcester during the last year he was practicing law was said, by lawyers who heard it, to be a model and masterly effort. He was tall and well proportioned, his voice was clear and pleasant, he spoke earnestly, and with the coolness and deliberation of a lawyer of years of practice; he was always master of his case and had thoroughly examined the principles of the law with reference to the questions at issue. In the preparation of cases for trial by a jury he had no equal among the younger and few among the elder members of the bar. All the facts and inferences were minutely examined, and arranged in order upon paper, for use at the trial, an examination of the law was made, and a careful statement of it written out with reference to the authorities. His opening to the jury was always a strong presentation of the case. The opening made by him in the case of the Commonwealth v. Scott and Dunlap was regarded by all who heard it as a remarkably clear and forcible statement. He never lost his self-control, he was respectful to the Court, and courteous to the counsel on the opposing side; his arguments to the jury were thorough, and received by them as coming from a man of honor and integrity."

During the three years of failing health, in which he was forced to acknowledge to himself that he could not again take up his profession, his serene courage was never shaken, nor his quiet cheerfulness once clouded. With everything to live for that a man could have, he faced death with the fortitude which had characterized his active life. On the twenty-second of October, 1881, at Millboro, Virginia, he passed away.

At a meeting of the Hampshire Bar on Friday afternoon, January sixth, 1882, the following resolutions were presented before Judge Aldrich, and ordered to be placed upon the records of the court:—

RESOLUTIONS.

Whereas, in the recent decease of Henry Herrick Bond the Hampshire Bar has lost one of its most honored members:—

Resolved, That by his habits of patient and searching investigation, by his clear discernment and grasp of legal principles, and by the logical exercise of his mental powers, he had gained a large and accurate knowledge of the law; and by a compact and vigorous method of statement he made his knowledge available and efficient; while his love of justice, a certain chivalric devotion to his profession, his honesty of purpose, his sound common sense, and the evident sincerity

of his motives and his speech, gave dignity to his professional character and furnished a solid basis for his personal success.

Resolved, That we hold in affectionate remembrance the sterling qualities of his strong and generous manhood; the urbanity and unvarying courtesy of his manner, his patience under difficulties and under provocation; his faith in man; his genial friendship; his tender and sympathetic consideration for the feelings of others; his modest self-reliance, and the variety and excellence of his literary attainments. He had the promise of a rich maturity, and of an eminently useful life. Well balanced and self-controlled, he held on his even way calm and courageous in life and calm and courageous as its end drew near.

Resolved, That we request that these resolutions may be extended on the records of this court, and that a copy be transmitted to the family of the deceased.

JOHN LORD OTIS.

By the Editor.

General John Lord Otis was born in Lyme, Conn., July fifteenth, 1827, and commenced the life of a factory hand when only seven and a half years old, working fourteen hours a day. He followed this employment, from "bobbin boy" to overseer, for eighteen years, devoting nights to hard study. At twenty-five he was well versed in most of the branches of manufacturing, was a good machinist, and a mechanical engineer of acknowledged ability. At this time he took charge of the Pacific mills of Manchester, Conn., as superintendent, and later established the Otis Manufacturing Company at South Manchester, where he was living when the war broke out.



GENERAL JOHN LORD OTIS.

When the call for volunteers came he enlisted in what was afterward known as Company B, Tenth Regiment, Connecticut Volunteers, and upon the organization of the company was commissioned as second lieutenant. He served first in the Burnside expedition at North Carolina, and was in all the engagements in that department. Passing rapidly through the

intermediate grades, he was commissioned major of his regiment in November, 1862, and the following March he was promoted to the rank of colonel.

January twenty-ninth, 1863, he was ordered, with his command, to South Carolina, where he served until July, when, becoming disabled by an attack of fever, he was ordered north to take command of the conscript camp at New Haven, Conn. Here he remained for two months, and was then detailed by General Dix to preside over a court martial of thirteen members assembled for the trial of several officers, against whom serious charges had been preferred.

In November, Colonel Otis was relieved from detached service at his own request, and immediately rejoined his regiment, then in Florida, and was placed in command of St. Augustine, where he remained until April seventeenth, 1864, and then joined the "Army of the James" on its organization; was in all its engagements during the summer, and was brevetted a brigadier general for special gallantry at "the crossing of the James, June twentieth, and at the battle of Fuzzells Mills and Deep Gully." General Plaisted, who was the commander of Colonel Otis' brigade, wrote to a friend, as follows :—

"I have just heard that our old friend and comrade is dead. It touches me deeply, as I know it must you. You know my partiality for Colonel Otis—how I esteemed him as a man, patriot, and soldier. I recollect the first time we met. It was at the opening of the campaign in Virginia in '64, when the Tenth came under my command. We sat down on the grass together and talked of the business at hand, as one farmer might in the field, with a new neighbor, of the crops in prospect. I remember the impression he made. There was no military air about him, any more than about Grant, but I perceived the quality of his spirit and nerve.

"What I admired most in our lamented friend, next to his patriotic zeal, was his coolness and judgment. He rose with the emergency, always equal to the occasion. I never saw him excited but once. That was when we fell back from the Howlett house battery, June sixteenth, under the fire of Lee's veterans, and he thought the Tenth was not falling back becomingly. His sword flashed high, his voice rang out above the din, bringing his regiment to a standstill on the instant. Riding out, I said to him, 'The orders were to fall back on the run.' 'Oh, I did not understand,' sheathing his sword, so quietly. Ordinarily so quiet, but in battle how changed his manner, his voice and form! In the battle of October seventh his regiment was the rock of defense in our line, his the central figure; and how his voice then rang out in the pines, when taking position without a moment to spare! There was a ring in it, so commanding, as coming from the finest metal, how could his boys move from their tracks, 'except to make room for those who fell,' as you remarked at the time.

"But the crowning act of his three years' service was his charge of October

thirteenth, when the Tenth had lost so heavily, including our 'knightly soldier,' Major Camp, and every company commander! After the terrible ordeal, as I said to him, I looked upon him as one of the worthies come out of the fiery furnace. His reply was, 'Now I am ready to go home, I am mustered out—have my discharge,' tapping his breast. 'And you went into that charge with your discharge in your pocket!' He smiled. 'Well, colonel," I said, 'that is beyond me. How could you do it—mustered out and all your thoughts turned toward home!'"

He was mustered out October eighteenth, 1864, on account of expiration of term of service, his service in the army amounting to three years



WOODED ROAD IN THE RAVINE—SPRING GROVE CEMETERY.

and four months, and he left the service with the rank of brigadier general. He was wounded three times, once at New Berne, and twice at Kingston.

At the close of the war General Otis came to Florence and became superintendent of the old Florence Sewing Machine Company, but after two years withdrew, and in company with L. B. Williams established the Northampton Emery Wheel Company, under the firm name of Otis & Williams. Later a stock company was formed with General Otis secre-

tary, treasurer, and business manager. He was a Northampton selectman twice, a representative to the legislature in 1877, and state senator in 1879 and 1880.

General Otis died at Tarpon Springs, Florida, March fourteenth, 1894. For several years ill health led him to spend his winters in the South, thus avoiding the extreme cold of the northern climate. In January, 1894, while preparing to leave Florence, he sustained an attack of heart disease, but rallied sufficiently to enable him to make the journey.



PINE STREET BRIDGE—A VISTA NEAR THE BRUSH FACTORY.

However, his strength failed soon after reaching Tarpon Springs, and the end came quite suddenly.

In 1848 Mr. Otis married Catherine Preston of Northampton, and his wife and two children, Harry P. and Philip A., survive him, all residing in Florence.

A loving husband, a kind father, a manly citizen, and a brave soldier was General Otis, and Florence will ever revere and cherish the memory of his noble life.

INDUSTRIAL INTERESTS.

FLORENCE is a manufacturing village, and the products of its mills and factories have been scattered far and wide throughout the world. How the first enterprises were planted here, and how they thrived, is told in Part I. of this work. But Florence was then in its infancy, and the industries which sprang up after the dissolution of the Community will now receive the attention which their importance deserves.

THE NONOTUCK SILK COMPANY.—The Nonotuck Silk Company stands first on the list of the manufacturing industries. Its early establishment



OLD WOODEN MILL. FINISHING DEPARTMENT AND OFFICE. STORE.

BUILDINGS OF THE NONOTUCK SILK COMPANY IN 1875.

and continued prosperity and importance entitle it to this position. It may be said that the business had its beginning in the mulberry fever and silk enterprise of Samuel Whitmarsh. The Community continued making silk till its dissolution in 1846, when Mr. S. L. Hill assumed charge. In 1850 Mr. Hill was embarrassed by the failure of a brother manufacturer, whom he had assisted and on whose notes he was an indorser, and he was obliged to lease his silk mill to H. K. Macomber and Curtis R. Parsons, who continued the business under the name of Macomber & Parsons.

Mr. Hill now turned his attention to farming, and also dealt in lumber, but soon, with the assistance of Mr. S. L. Hinckley, he was enabled to begin the manufacturing of silk again. The firm name was the "Nono-

The goods manufactured are all grades of wood and cloth covered burial cases and undertakers' supplies, the market for which is almost exclusively in New England.

Mr. A. T. Lilly was president till his death in 1890. H. B. Haven has been treasurer and manager from the organization. The present officers are: S. B. Fuller, president; H. B. Haven, treasurer; S. B. Fuller, G. S. Graves, W. J. Warner, H. F. Cutler, and W. L. Wilcox, directors.

THE NORWOOD ENGINEERING COMPANY was organized with a capital of $10,000, in February, 1892. At present about thirty hands are employed, the company doing a general foundry and machine business, dealing in steam plants and manufacturing cutlery and paper machinery. The officers are: H. P. Otis, president; W. A. Stevenson, treasurer and manager; H. P. Otis, H. A. Kimball, and George S. Graves, directors.

The first buildings, now extensively enlarged, erected on this site, were put up about 1870 for the Sheffield Manufacturing Company, which proposed to convert iron into a metal resembling steel. The attempt was a failure, however, and the buildings were soon after purchased by B. M. Couch, who used them for a foundry and machine shop for many years, until A. G. Hill bought the property.

THE CROWN BRAID COMPANY.—The old Greenville cotton factory now forms the center of a group of buildings used by the Crown Braid Company for the manufacture of worsted and silk braid. The business was started in 1888 by Freeman Brothers, who employed ten hands. A large addition, now used for a dyehouse and drying rooms, was built the same year, and now all save two floors, which are used for manufacturing silk, are devoted to the braid business.

HIRAM WELLS & COMPANY.—Mr. Wells was a machinist, and after the Community dissolved he formed a partnership with Mr. Hill, who furnished working capital. The company did a general machine business, having their shop in the basement of the silk mill. This building was burned in 1852, and the company moved to the Valentine dyehouse before referred to. Portable circular sawmills, pumps, and grip wrenches were manufactured here, Mr. D. J. Littlefield being a partner at one time.

Mr. Wells lost the larger part of his right hand in an accident, but he became quite skillful in using the remaining fingers and thumb. Several fires destroyed the pattern shop and did other damage, and the business was dealt a fatal blow on July 11, 1859, when the boiler exploded, killing the proprietor, and badly damaging the buildings. Soon after the estate came into the possession of the Florence Sewing Machine Company.

FLORENCE MANUFACTURING COMPANY.—In 1854 S. L. Hill and I. S. Parsons became associated with A. P. Critchlow in the manufacture of papier mache buttons, and union cases for daguerreotypes and ambrotypes. The firm was A. P. Critchlow & Co. In 1857 D. G. Littlefield became a partner, and in 1868 Mr. Critchlow sold out and the firm name was changed to Littlefield, Parsons & Co., and so remained till in the summer of 1866, the demand for the daguerreotype cases having declined, George A. Scott, S. L. Hinckley, George A. Burr, Mr. Littlefield, and Mr. Parsons formed the Florence Manufacturing Company, this company being the successors of Littlefield, Parsons & Co. The new firm began manufacturing toilet brushes, mirrors, lockets, etc.

The reputation these "Florence" articles enjoy is an enviable one, and from the first the policy of the company has always been to stand at the head for variety of styles and elegance of designs.



WORKS OF THE FLORENCE MANUFACTURING COMPANY.

The company at the present time manufacture tooth brushes, making a specialty of the Prophylactic, "Cosmeon" pure aluminium goods, Florence composition brushes and mirrors, and wood back toilet articles. The aluminium goods possess great merit, and seem destined to be even more popular than the well known "Florence" line.

The main factory, a brick building, three stories high, one hundred and forty by forty-five feet, was built in 1866. In 1885 a building, one hundred by fifty feet, and two stories high, was erected adjoining the main structure, and in 1893 the "office" addition, thirty by forty-five feet, three stories high, was made necessary owing to the constantly increasing business.

The company has a capital of $100,000, and employs from one hundred fifty to one hundred seventy-five hands. The present officers are: E. W. Eaton, president; Frank N. Look, treasurer and general manager; J. E. Winchell, secretary; E. W. Eaton, H. R. Hinckley, and Frank N. Look, directors.

THE (BENSONVILLE) GREENVILLE MANUFACTURING COMPANY.—This company, which was organized in 1846, bought the brick factory of the Northampton Association, and began manufacturing cotton cloth. George W. Benson was the prime mover. He failed in 1850, and the name was changed to the Greenville Manufacturing Company. In 1867 the officers were: President, S. Williston; Treasurer, J. P. Williston; Secretary, A. L. Williston. The capital stock of the company was $100,000. The business of cotton manufacturing steadily declined until, in 1886, the property was bought by the Nonotuck Silk Company.

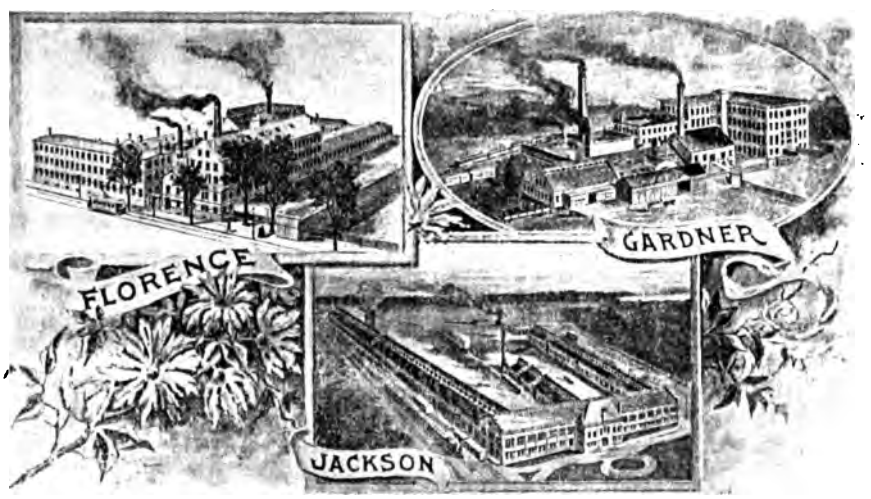
THE FLORENCE TACK COMPANY commenced the manufacture of tacks and small nails, in 1874, being one of the first concerns of this kind in Western Massachusetts. The plant burned down in 1876, with quite a loss to the new company, which at once erected a new building and before 1877 were turning out their goods again. George W. Bond, a man of keen inventive genius, was superintendent, and he made the drawings for the machines used in the manufacture of the tacks and nails. The company failed in 1892. Some of the machinery has been removed, the remainder has been sold and destroyed, and the shop remains idle.

FLORENCE SEWING MACHINE COMPANY.—An old shop, now surrounded by new buildings, built about 1844, on the site of the Oilgas Stove plant, was used as a dyehouse, and afterwards for the manufacture of silk, by Valentine & Sowerby. The buildings were afterwards used for the manufacture of circular sawmills and various kinds of machinery job work, by Hiram Wells & Company. It was while at work in this shop, that L. W. Langdon experimented, while busied with his invention of the Florence sewing machine. D. G. Littlefield and S. L. Hill joined with Mr. Langdon, and, after spending considerable money in experiments, perfected and brought out the first machine in the year 1861. In 1861 the first company was formed, with a capital of $125,000. In 1862 it was increased to $200,000, and in 1864 the first building was erected. In 1866 the capital was increased to $500,000.

Business was brisk at the works for several years, the company employing a large number of men, and making several additions to the plant. In 1876 the manufacture of oil stoves was commenced and in 1882 the Crown sewing machine superseded the old Florence. Many changes in the management accompanied the varying success of the

business from year to year. About 1880 O. N. Kyle became the treasurer of the company. In 1888 Earl A. Thissell, as superintendent, assisted Mr. Kyle in the management of the works, and on the death of Mr. Kyle, October tenth, 1889, he became the treasurer of the company.

THE CENTRAL OILGAS STOVE COMPANY was incorporated November fifteenth, 1890. It absorbed the Florence Machine Company ; American Oil Stove Company, Gardner, Mass. ; Monitor Oil Stove Company, Cleveland, O. ; Union Gas and Oil Stove Company, New York city ; and thirteen other oil and gas stove manufacturing companies. Their salesrooms are at Boston, New York city, and Chicago, and their manufacturing plants in Gardner, Mass., Greenwich, Conn., Jackson, Mich., and at Florence, Mass., at which place is the home office.



THE CENTRAL OILGAS STOVE COMPANY'S WORKS AT FLORENCE, GARDNER, AND JACKSON.

Their manufactures are wood cabinets for silk manufacturers, the Crown sewing machine, which has a reputation of being equal to any sewing machine built, and an almost endless variety of oil stoves ; also a large variety of gas stoves. These stoves are for both cooking and heating purposes, and have a world-wide reputation.

The officers of the company are : John C. Hammond, president ; Earl A. Thissell, first vice-president ; Charles W. Conant, of Gardner, second vice-president ; William H. Wilder, treasurer ; Herbert D. Burnham, assistant treasurer ; W. W. Tandy, auditor. The directors consist of the president, vice-presidents, treasurer, H. P. Field, H. P. Wilder of Gardner, L. H. Littlefield of Pawtucket, R. I., and Calvin H. Hill of Chicago, Ill.

THE JOHN N. LEONARD SILK COMPANY.—When Captain Conant, E. D. Swift, and O. S. Chaffee withdrew from the Community in October, 1842, they purchased Enoch Jewett's farm, including the water power and shop, and began manufacturing silk in a small wood mill they erected, which now forms a part of the Leonard factories between Florence and the Center. The firm name was J. Conant & Company. Mr. Swift died soon after, and Porter Nutting and John Harten were interested in the new venture for a short time, until a new firm was formed, Warner, Holland & Company (Joseph Warner, J. Harvey Holland, and Caleb M. Hartwell), which continued the business until, in 1852, Warner & Skinner (Warner, L. D. Suydam, and William Skinner) succeeded the old firm. Mr. Skinner sold his interest in a few years to Mr. Warner, who carried on the business alone until 1871, when J. S. Lathrop became Mr. Warner's partner. Luther Warner succeeded Warner & Lathrop in 1877, the date of Mr. Warner's death. Several changes in the management have been made in recent years, and now the above corporation has the following board of officers: President, Samuel Porter; treasurer, Luther Warner; secretary, John W. Combs. Directors: the president, treasurer, and secretary, with John L. Warner and Charles E. Eaton.

AMOS SAWYER started the soap business in 1852, on the site of the electric car barns. When he began he sent out only one team, but the business increased rapidly, and in 1868 he built a large factory, and later made extensive additions to his plant. The business prospered until fire destroyed the factory with all its contents in the early evening of Sunday, May eighth, 1887.

FLORENCE SAVINGS BANK was incorporated February twelfth, 1873, on the petition of Samuel L. Hill, George A. Burr, A. T. Lilly, A. L. Williston, and Isaac Parsons. To Rev. F. W. Bishop, the first pastor of the Methodist church, is due the credit of starting the bank, he having proposed the undertaking to several business men. The first president, A. T. Lilly, remained in office till his death in 1890, when Samuel Porter was elected. H. H. Bond, the first secretary and treasurer, in whose law office in Davis block the first meeting of trustees was held, and where the banking was conducted for several years, was succeeded in 1880 by his sister, Mary W. Bond, who was the first woman to hold the office of treasurer of a savings bank in Massachusetts, and who continued to perform with skill and fidelity the duties of the office until her death in September, 1891. The office of the bank remained in Davis block until 1891, when it was moved to the present quarters of the bank. Miss Mary E. Gould succeeded Miss Bond, and Miss Emilie M. Plimpton was appointed bookkeeper.

Number of depositors one year from incorporation, 232; amount of deposit, $19,478; number of depositors, November first, 1894, 1,289; amount of deposit, $281,899; guaranty fund in 1894, $13,767.

MISCELLANEOUS.

In the month of January, 1867, several of the citizens organized the Florence Mercantile Association, with the object of selling groceries, dry goods, etc., as cheaply as possible, and still pay a fair dividend on the money invested. The association erected the brick block on Main street, since known as Branch's block. The capital stock was less than $6,000, and in five years from organization dividends amounting to forty per cent. had been paid. Dissensions arose, however, and in 1876 the stockholders voted to disband, R. M. Branch buying the stock on hand.

CUTLER, PLIMPTON & COMPANY.—In 1865 William A. Godfrey and L. K. Baker erected a small building on what is now the corner of Maple and West Center streets, and moved their store from the old cotton factory boarding house to this new building. Henry F. Cutler bought a half interest in the business, April, 1866, a short time previous to Mr. Godfrey's death, and later obtained L. K. Baker's stock at auction. Mr. Cutler conducted the business about two years, selling out to R. M. Branch, who remained proprietor nearly twelve months, when the firm Cutler, Plimpton & Company (H. F. Cutler, L. F. Plimpton, and V. E. Cleveland) was formed, and took possession of the business. After a few years Mr. Cleveland withdrew, George T. Cutler taking his place. Several additions to the new building have been made necessary by the continually increasing business, and where the firm employed no clerks at the start, now the services of seven are required. The business consists of nearly all kinds of merchandise.



SAWYER'S SOAP FACTORY.
From the original sketch by C. C. Burleigh, Jr.

R. M. BRANCH bought the property of the Mercantile Association in 1876. Mr. Branch at that time was a member of the firm of I. S. Parsons

& Company; he closed the store on Nonotuck street, moving the goods to the brick block on Main street, now known as Branch's block, where he has since conducted a store, dealing in general merchandise.

GRAVES BROTHERS.—In 1844 Nelson Askins opened a livery stable on Nonotuck street. For fifteen years the owners were Nelson Askins, Sylvester J. Bosworth, Fordyce Loomis, Taylor, Loomis & Atkins, and G. E. Atkins. In 1859 Edward E. Graves purchased a half interest in Mr. Atkins' business, and later in the same year George S. Graves purchased the other half interest of Mr. Atkins. In 1867 they erected their present stables on Maple street.

AUSTIN ROSS.—When the Community dissolved, Austin Ross bought the farm and continued the milk business. His son, Dwight A. Ross, now has the management of this long established business. The large barns were erected in 1869.

AUGUST ASSING, SR., tailor, came to Florence in 1854, from Dermsdorf, Germany. Two years later he built his house on Maple street, where his shop has since been.

JOHN W. BIRD.—The first Florence newsdealer was a Mr. Brigham, who opened a news store in 1867. A Mr. Upton succeeded him, and later W. H. Riley purchased the store and moved it from Little's block into a small building on the corner of Main and Maple streets. Mr. Riley sold out to L. Woodward, who in turn sold out to John W. Bird, August first, 1883. The little store was replaced by Maine's block in 1889. Mr. Bird's business is that of a bookseller, newsdealer, and stationer.

CROSSMAN & POLMATIER.—Thomas A. Orcutt started the hardware business in 1870, and two years later built a store, now Crossman & Polmatier's, and began the stove and tinning business. Mr. Orcutt sold out in 1879, and from that time the store had a number of proprietors, among them being Samuel Wilder, until 1886, when Crossman & Polmatier bought it. This firm does a general hardware and plumbing business, employing from four to nine men.

JOHN IRWIN established himself in the village in 1867, and continued the business of a mason until his death in 1872, when Henry Swift became proprietor. Mr. Swift died in 1889, and his son, John N. Swift, the present owner, took charge of the business.

NELSON A. DAVIS opened the first drug store in the place, in the spring of 1871, and still conducts the same business. Davis block, a brick building forty-five by sixty feet and three stories high, was built in 1870, and besides store and office room has a commodious hall.

ARTHUR M. WARE.—For thirty years there has been a meat market on the site now owned by Arthur M. Ware. M. H. Ware purchased the business in 1877, of C. L. Warren. Mr. Ware in turn sold it to Ware & Taylor in 1888, this firm continuing for two years, when Arthur M. Ware bought out his partner's interest. He employs three men and does a large business.

ISRAEL A. GRAVES has been a real estate dealer for thirty years, and has conducted a livery stable during the last fifteen years.

FLORENCE HOTEL.—This landmark was erected over forty years ago by Joel Abercrombie, who conducted it as a hotel for a number of years. James Stone, who succeeded him, managed the house for seven years, and then Hiram Munson purchased it. After one year, Charles Osgood accepted the management, and in a short time he sold it to the present



THE OLD "FLORENCE HOUSE."
From a photograph taken about 1860.

proprietor, Michael Cooney. The house was formerly two stories in height, the present proprietor having made many improvements both inside and out.

MYRON C. HOWARD started in the house painting business in March, 1871. The business has steadily increased until now he employs from ten to twenty men. He owns the brick block at the junction of Park and Meadow streets, where he conducts his business of painting, paper hanging, decorating, etc.

RUDOLPH FURTH, JR.—In June, 1877, Rudolph Furth, Sr., erected building on the site of the engine house for a barber shop. His s

Rudolph Furth, Jr., succeeded him several years ago, and is now proprietor.

CHARLES O. PARSONS.—The business now conducted by C. O. Parsons, consisting of coal, wood, flour and meal, hay and grain, besides a general store for the sale of clothing and men's furnishings, was started by his father, H. K. Parsons, in 1876. In 1880 the present large buildings were erected and the business has prospered so that now six men and teams are given constant employment.

WALTER C. GOODWIN, carpenter, erected his present wood factory on Myrtle street in 1876, and has since manufactured packing boxes, and conducted a shop for general wood-work. The building was enlarged in 1880, and again in 1890. A few years ago he built a steam sawmill on the road to North Farms, where he gets out lumber for his shop.

ROBERT H. PEASE purchased the grain store of L. B. Moore in 1877. A year later he moved to the Squires building, and in 1881 erected his present block on North Main street, adding to his business a line of groceries and men's furnishings.*

THOMAS A. ORCUTT.—In 1879 J. M. Davis and T. A. Orcutt formed a partnership to conduct undertaking, and carriage making and repairing, having their works in the Squires building. Mr. Davis sold his interest to Mr. Orcutt after six months, and Mr. Orcutt remained proprietor till 1892, when D. D. O'Donnell bought an interest in the undertaking business.

GEORGE N. DAVIS.—For twenty years there has been a jeweler at Davis' Pharmacy, and the present proprietor, George N. Davis, bought out E. M. Beckwith in February, 1894. For years William M. Smith had this stand.

THOMAS ROCHE purchased the insolvent estate of F. A. Barnes, dealer in drugs and medicines, last spring. Roche's block, formerly Stone's, was built in 1884, F. A. and W. E. Barnes starting the drug business the same year.

GEORGE N. BAKER, insurance agent and dealer in real estate, succeeded to the business established in 1873 by Mr. Morse. His office is in Knights of Honor block.

FRANK W. BISSELL, carriage and sign painter, bought out J. C. Jager, in April, 1889. Mr. Jager had carried on this business since 1879. Mr. Bissell's shop is in the Squire's building on North Maple street.

WILLIAM H. RICE started the ice business in 1884. In 1888 he pur-

* This was written previous to the death of Mr. Pease, December seventeenth, 1894.

chased the coal business of W. C. Goodwin, and now employs several men, having his office in M. C. Howard's block.

FERDINAND SCHADEE started the photography business in Branch's block in 1885. He had previously been in Northampton, the firm being Hardie & Schadee.

MRS. MARY C. SHANNON.—In 1886, Misses Mary and Maggie Powers opened a millinery and dressmaking store in Stone's (Roche's) block. Three years later the former, then Mrs. Mary C. Shannon, moved to Maine's block, where she now conducts a store devoted to millinery and ladies' furnishings.

MRS. MARY S. MANN is the owner of the cluster of greenhouses on the corner of Pine and Maple streets. She commenced in a small way in 1887, and now has about twelve thousand feet of glass, and employs from four to six hands besides the foreman.

E. P. ROOT, wagon maker and repairer, came to Florence in 1887 and now has his shop in the Squire's building.

SAMUEL LLOYD, who was a butcher, started the manufacture of pressed corned beef in 1887. Two years later he built his present quarters, putting in steam power and modern machinery. He employs from two to six men, and finds a ready market for his celebrated "Steam Condensed Beef."

FRANK D. R. WARNER purchased the candy business of Charles L. Moody, then situated in Little's block, in 1889, and two years later moved to his present location, corner of Main and Maple streets. He carries in stock a full line of musical merchandise.

F. H. STONE's meat market and grocery store was established in 1890, in the Roche block. The livery business of E. A. Stone is now controlled by Mr. F. H. Stone.

MICHELMAN BROTHERS' (Max and Myer) dry goods, clothing, and men's furnishing goods business was started four years ago by the brothers, Israel, Philip, Max, and Myer Michelman, in their present quarters in Knights of Honor block.

MISS MARY E. GOULD.—Miss Mary W. Bond, in connection with Miss Gould, opened an office for fire insurance, in 1891. Since the death of Miss Bond the business has been conducted by Miss Gould.

JOHN J. DELANEY purchased the barber shop owned by Dennis Fitzgerald, which was located in the hotel, on May seventh, 1891, and a few days later removed it to Cooney's block, refitting the shop with modern improvements.

GEORGE H. BURNHAM erected his present livery stable in 1891, and has since conducted the business.

ELBRIDGE W. PATRELL opened a grocery store in Davis block in March, 1892.

POLMATIER & ADDIS.—A. J. Polmatier opened a trimming and plumbing shop, in March, 1893, and later formed a partnership with Edwin C. Addis. Last October they opened a stove and tin store in Knights of Honor block.

ERRATA.

On page 34, line 4, read 1835 instead of 1834.

On page 59, line 19, read 1836 instead of 1833 or 1835.

On page 126, line 9, read Giles B. Stebbins instead of Giles D. Stebbins.

A few words about

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